

## STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT



### Steering Committee

**Tom Orsi, Chair**  
**Jane Allen**  
**Francis Dwyer**  
**Martha Dwyer**  
**Arlene Gardiner**  
**John Gibbons**  
**Elizabeth McGrath**  
**Walter Pannone**  
**Raymond Vallee**

*Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you especially for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and hold the promise for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight. Be present with us as we work together: make us responsive to your will and give to us a healthy pride in all we do that we may be good stewards of all things entrusted to us. May the prayers of our patron Bernard help us to keep in mind the wise counsel given long ago "whoever would climb to a lofty height must go by steps, not leaps."*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

## MEETING ON THE SCHOOL ISSUE

The Steering Committee is offering interested members of the Parish another opportunity to attend an informative presentation of the issues relating to the proposed school at St. Bernard's. On **Sunday, November 9, 2003 at 11AM in the Parish Center**, Tom Orsi will lead the presentation for those who may have missed the meeting earlier this month, or for those interested in seeing it again. If there is an interest in the Parish to provide a Catholic education to more children in South County, we need to know, and we need to know soon. To paraphrase the words of television's Dr. Frasier Crane, you need to tell us because, **"we're listening!"**



## WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

As we get closer to completing the Master Planning process, some members of the Parish have questioned why we need to change. Can't we just fix what we have and stay where we are? Sure we can, but many issues point to why we shouldn't. In August, 2001, Fr. Dennis asked "Do our facilities support us in the realization of the activities and programs we deem essential and desirable for our life as a parish and for our mission to, and in the wider community?" The months of work that went into producing the Strategic Plan indicated that the facilities would not support what the Parish wants, and indeed, needs to do to follow our mission.

In 2001, a Statement of Needs was produced from the results of the Parish Survey. Here are a few items from that Statement to remind us of why we need to change:

• Limited seating capacity requires us

to have 5 weekend Masses - difficult to maintain with the dwindling number of available priests. Also, the Parish is certainly not getting any smaller.

• Present facilities are too small or inappropriate for social gatherings and constrain the sense of community in the Parish.

• Hundreds of thousands of dollars would need to be spent to improve current facilities including making them more handicap accessible.

• Even if the money were spent on the facilities, including the parking lots, Route 1 would still run right through the middle, thereby never putting an end to the traffic safety issues that exist today.

As we move forward, and especially once we receive the results of the Master Plan, more specific information will emerge on what we will build, how much it will cost and how we plan to pay for it. Once we find out, we'll let you know. Stay tuned!