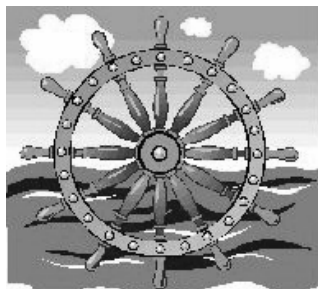


STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT



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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Over the past several weeks the Steering Committee and the ad-hoc groups of the School Subcommittee have continued to meet, working toward our goal of finalizing the Master Plan for the Davis property. Michael Viveiros and Martha Werenfels, our architects from Durkee Brown, are hoping to present us with a draft copy of the Plan in about 2 weeks. Certainly once this Plan is finalized we will share it with the Parish.

Right before Christmas, the Steering Committee met with Tony G from the Diocesan Development Office to discuss some of the details of starting a capital campaign for the new church. Tony recommends starting the campaign in the Fall. Understandably from the Diocesan perspective, the Bishop does not usually allow a parish to start a campaign in the Spring since that would interfere with the fundraising efforts for the Catholic Charity Fund. Fortunately, a Fall campaign would work well with the timeline established by our architects. Tony also offered to have his office provide pledge redemption services at no cost to the Parish. These services involve collecting and accounting for the gifts, as well as mailing out pledge reminders. Pledge redemption would be a burdensome task for the parish to handle internally, and expensive if we were to outsource it. Tony's offer is quite generous. Thanks Tony!

SCHOOL SUBCOMMITTEE

The School Subcommittee groups are making significant progress.

- ◆ The volunteers working on the school model have just about completed their analysis on what grades we should offer (preK to 5; preK to 8?) and if we should offer one or two classes of each.
- ◆ The gentlemen working on the financing issues have met with the architects and the diocesan CFO to obtain more information on the tax-exempt bond issue that may be offered to pay for the construction and to determine potential tuition rates. Under the directive of the Diocese the tuition rate will most likely be calculated based on the cost based tuition/needs based financial aid model. While this model has been implemented in other areas of the country, it is a new concept in our Diocese. Next week's bulletin insert will discuss this model in more detail.
- ◆ The third ad-hoc group had a conference call with Alan Meitler, whose report to the Diocese in 2001 indicated that there is a need for a Catholic school in North Kingstown. Mr. Meitler is going to give us a proposal for services for his firm to survey residents in the area with specific questions relating to building a school at St. Bernard's.