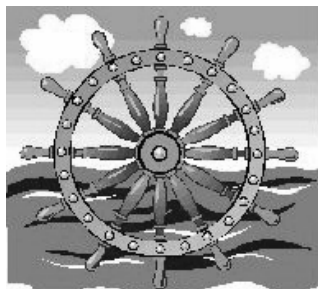


STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

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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

THIS WEEK - SCHOOL SUBCOMMITTEE

The School Subcommittee met on Thursday evening. The Subcommittee reviewed the report by school model ad-hoc committee members Peter and Nancy Nigri, and Michele and Tom Sandham. Their report concluded that a fully operational school at St. Bernard's should include grades PreK through grade 8 with 2 classrooms per grade. A start-up model consisting of PreK through grade 3 was also suggested.

The ad-hoc group presented the following reasons to support their conclusions:

PreK-8 model:

- ◆ Provides families continuous Catholic education through the often difficult middle school years without the need to transfer to a different facility;
- ◆ Allows siblings to remain in the same system for an extended period of time.

Including Two Classrooms per Grade:

- ◆ Provides more diversity of student placement in class;
- ◆ Increases the possibilities for academic and athletic competition;
- ◆ Increases the number of students and families benefiting from Catholic education;
- ◆ Reduces the cost per student allowing for a lower tuition rate;
- ◆ Enables us to be a comparable alternative to our neighboring schools (Monsignor Clarke and Our Lady of Mercy) which both offer the two classrooms per grade model.

The Model ad-hoc group has done a great job. Their proposal is well defined and provides the finance and survey groups with a solid baseline on which to move forward.

The Subcommittee group dealing with school financing (Ed Zajac and Mike Fortin) continues to fine-tune a budget for the school. The goal is obviously to see if a brand new school can operate under a breakeven budget AND have a tuition rate that is affordable and competitive. The work continues.

The Subcommittee group dealing with the survey (Mark Bamford, Carol Bender, Rich DiMaria, Ann Turley and Steve Zambarano) are working on scheduling a meeting with the Meitler group to discuss the area survey.

ST. BERNARD PARISH MASTER PLAN

The Steering Committee meets on Monday with architects Martha Werenfels and Michael Viveiros to review the final draft of the Master Plan. A three dimensional model of the latest schematic drawing should be available at that time for us to review.

Your chance to review this information will be at the Parish Community Forum on **Sunday, February 29, 2004 at 11AM in the Parish Center** . Please plan to join us.