

St. Bernard Church

415 Tower Hill Road
North Kingstown, RI 02852
Parish Office: 401.295.0387
Fax: 401.295.1713

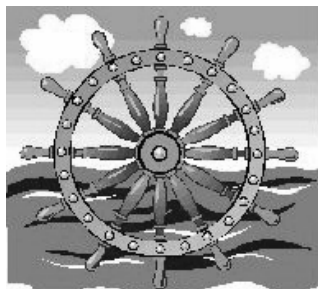
Issue 34

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STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

E-mail: steering_committee@sbcwickford.org

Website: <http://www.sbcwickford.org>



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."

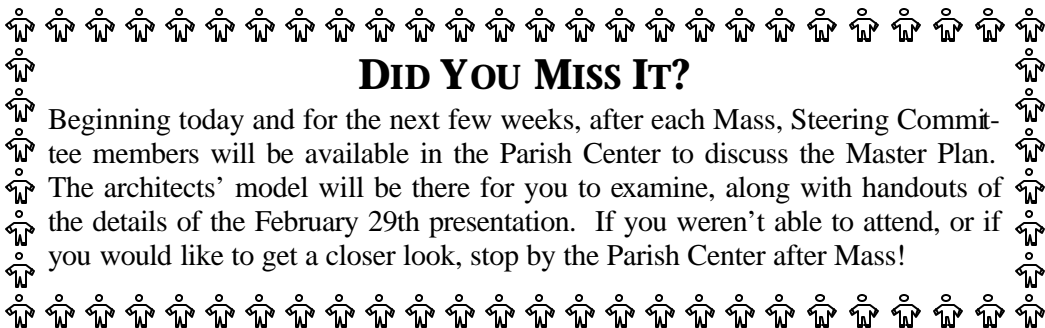
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

THIS WEEK

Wow! What a turnout we had for the Parish Forum last Sunday! Well over 125 parishioners found time on Leap Year Day (Feb 29th) to stop in to hear about the Parish's Master Plan. Steering Committee Chair Tom Orsi's presentation on the Plan and what the next steps for the Parish might be were quite positively received. Architects Michael Viveiros and Martha Werenfels were there with a model of the property which illustrated the probable locations of buildings. Lots of excellent questions were asked by parishioners. The potential cost of the project was a concern to many in the room, as it is to each member of the committee. As we pin down the costs even further, we will update you.

In his presentation, Tom reviewed the challenges of the property including the busy corner, the cemetery and the wetlands. The property's opportunities include its size, its beautiful setting and is appropriate zoning. Tom discussed each aspect of the project including the church, school and parish center. He reviewed where we are with the cost estimates and financing options. The Master Plan concluded that the Davis property could accommodate both a church and a parish center, but that we would have to purchase additional land if we are to build a school. If we build a school, the administrative offices of the Parish would be housed within the Parish's school building. Also, the farmhouse and the cemetery will be preserved, thereby avoiding all sorts of delays and controversy. Next steps include finalizing the decision on the school, organizing the capital campaign and moving ahead on design and construction with an anticipated date of occupancy of September, 2006. Thanks to all who attended. Stay tuned for future updates.



DID YOU MISS IT?

Beginning today and for the next few weeks, after each Mass, Steering Committee members will be available in the Parish Center to discuss the Master Plan. The architects' model will be there for you to examine, along with handouts of the details of the February 29th presentation. If you weren't able to attend, or if you would like to get a closer look, stop by the Parish Center after Mass!

CAN YOU HELP?

Do you have experience in writing grants for non-profit organizations, especially Catholic organizations? With the new church construction and the potential new school, plenty of fundraising possibilities lie ahead. Maybe you know someone who knows of foundations who might be interested in such a worthwhile cause? Maybe you know someone who has experience in writing requests for these kinds of grants? There are opportunities out there. We can't let these opportunities pass us by! If you have experience in this area, please call Fr. Dennis or Jane at the Parish Center.