

St. Bernard Church

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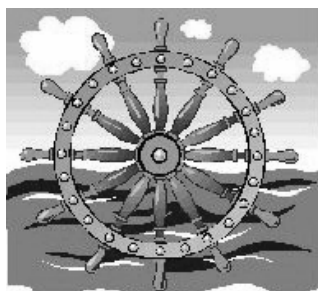
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STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT



Steering Committee

Tom Orsi, Chair
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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

THERE THEY GO AGAIN!

As you may have read in the *Providence Journal* last Saturday, even as they are closing two Catholic elementary schools in Providence, the Diocese "is planning a school in North Kingstown." **Are they talking about St. Bernard's again?** Rest assured that nothing has happened in the last week that changes anything that you have been told in the past. Nothing has been signed, and nothing has been agreed to, which could possibly be interpreted as a final decision on the school. ***Planning, budgeting, surveying, and dreaming.*** That's as far as we have gone so far.

The Wisconsin firm that recommended that the Diocese merge the four inner-city schools into two, Meit-

ler Inc., is also the firm that St. Bernard's has hired to help conduct our school survey. They are also the firm that produced the study in 2001 for the Diocese which indicated that a need existed for additional Catholic schools in South County.



The significant demographic and economic differences between inner-city Providence and North Kingstown are what make the decisions to close schools in one area and build in another financially consistent.

THIS WEEK

Members of both the Steering and School committees are meeting Sunday morning to review a list of recently opened Catholic elementary schools throughout the country. We may be able to contact some of these schools to get ideas on how to identify and avoid the potential pitfalls of the start-up phase of a new school, as well as help in uncovering opportunities to reduce our budgets for capital and operating costs.

SCHOOL SURVEY

The survey to gauge the need and desire for a Catholic school in North Kingstown will be mailed out Monday, March 29th to area parents with children under 12 years old, recently married couples and those with children recently baptized. Please be sure to send back your responses. The more data we receive, the more accurate the conclusions that we'll be able to draw. Thanks for your help.

