

St. Bernard Church

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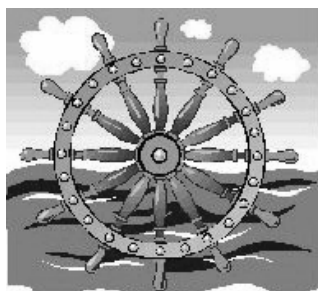
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STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT



Steering Committee

Tom Orsi, Chair
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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.

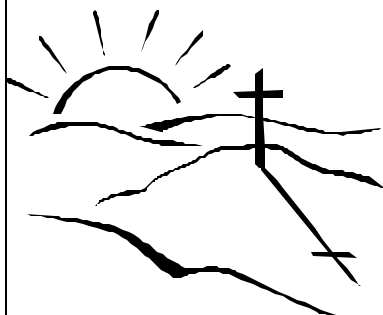
Amen

THIS WEEK

Members of both the Steering and School committees met last Sunday morning to review a list of recently opened Catholic elementary schools throughout the country. The group developed a list of questions which they believe will help 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. Questions relating to financing, academic and physical structure, food service, and financial aid subsidies, were formulated. A list of schools to visit will be outlined at the next meeting.

Although we must wait for the results of the school survey before making any final decisions, we can still move ahead with the planning concepts in certain areas. One such area is what the architects refer to as Phase I —School Programming. This phase will include in-depth discussions on what might be the educational philosophy behind a St. Bernard's School, what type of technology would a school need, and what are the "best practices" in grade school education today. Should we decide to move ahead with a school, this preliminary phase will help the architects design a school that specifically works the way St. Bernard's wants it to work. Tom Orsi and School Subcommittee chair Ed Cooney are coordinating Phase I.

The requests for proposal for the capital campaign coordinator were due in by last Friday. We expect that at least four firms will respond and that we will be able to begin interviewing them shortly after Easter.



SURVEY

Did you get a survey? By now, area parents with children under 12 years old should have received a survey on the need and desire for a Catholic school in North Kingstown.



Please be sure to send back your responses before April 12th. The more data we receive, the more accurate the conclusions that we'll be able to draw. Thanks for your help.

HAPPY EASTER

There will be no Steering Committee insert on Easter Sunday. On behalf of the Steering Committee and the School Subcommittee, we wish you a blessed and happy Easter.