

St. Bernard Church

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Issue 7

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STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT



Steering Committee

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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

The Steering Committee went on the road this week. On Monday evening three different church properties were visited in the East Bay Area. The pastor of St. Anthony's in Portsmouth, Rev. Daniel Gray, escorted the committee on a tour of the new parish center. The new addition was built to blend in with the 100 year old stone exterior and was designed to attach to the church building through a large new entrance space. The next stop was St. Theresa's in Tiverton where a new church addition was just dedicated on June 12th. Pastor Rev. Peter Andrews and building committee member, Cynthia Wesling, guided our group through the building process. The first step in the process was to completely demolish one end of the church building, the orientation of the altar was reversed and the worship space was then doubled in size. Some nice features included the sloped seating arrangement of pews and the highly polished concrete floors. The final stop was St. Lucy's in Middletown where the committee was met by the Pastor Rev. Eugene McKenna. St. Lucy's church was built about 15 years ago with a laminated trussed ceiling, the former church became the parish center and was attached to the new church building.

On Tuesday evening the committee met with the pastor of St. Veronica's, Rev. John Halloran. St. Veronica's was recently enlarged to accommodate the growing number of parishioners in Narragansett. St. Veronica's is an example of church architecture that fits into the surrounding environment.

Question for Sunday, July 27, 2003

What type of space would you like to see in the entrance of the church? This area is called the gathering space or narthex and is an important part of the worship space.

Please drop your response in the collection baskets or send an email to steering_committee@sbcwickford.org. Thanks for your response!

The Steering Committee's e-mail address is : steering_committee@sbwickford.org Please make a note of it and keep sending your questions, thoughts and responses.

Thank you to all the parishioners who filled out the Steering Committee questionnaires and especially to all those parishioners who took time out of their busy summer schedules to meet with the architect. Your input will help us evaluate the future needs of the entire parish community.

The Church Building and the Sacred Rites Celebrated There

~95~ The narthex is a place of welcome—a threshold space between the congregation's space and the outside environment. ... Today it serves as a gathering space and as the entrance and exit to the building. The gathering space helps believers to make the transition from everyday life to the celebration of the liturgy, and after the liturgy, it helps them return to daily life to live out the mystery that has been celebrated. In the gathering space, people come together to move in procession and to prepare for the celebration of the liturgy....

From *Built of Living Stones* Guidelines of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops

Coming Up:

~ Next week, the Steering Committee will be visiting two parishes in Barrington with recent building projects, St. Luke's and Holy Angels.

~ The Committee will also be traveling to Cranston to visit Holy Apostles to see the new church building and meet with Rev. Sheehan, the pastor.

~ Rye will be planted soon to another field at the Davis farm.



St. Anthony's Parish Center



St. Lucy's Church



St. Theresa's