

St. Rose Parish Council's Report and Response To Town Hall Meetings Held 3/1 – 3/2/08

Forty-nine parishioners attended the Town Hall Meetings held after each mass. Various suggestions and questions surfaced concerning the operation of St. Rose Parish. Below is a summary of the parishioner input received at the meetings.

Positive comments that were repeated across all meetings included the following:

- Gratitude for the service of our priests to our community. Appreciation expressed for the quality of liturgies at St. Rose, the ability of our priests to relate to the youth, and for their strong support of parishioners during the bereavement process.
- The strong feeling of community within our parish.
- The Generations of Faith program has been beneficial.

Could we have more parish social activities? (i.e. potluck dinners, pancake breakfasts)

- We certainly could, although we would need the volunteer base to take responsibility for the events. Any interested parishioners can sign up to volunteer at the Ministry Fair which will be held after all masses on Pentecost Sunday, May 11th.

Are there any plans to restore the old St. Rose Church building?

- There are no current plans for this. Why not? The cost is prohibitive, probably in the \$2 million range. In response to the interest expressed in this, there will be an opportunity to sign up for a committee to pursue exploring the feasibility of this project at the Ministry Fair on May 11th.

How do we engage a larger number of parishioners to become actively involved in parish life, ministries and volunteer work? How do we encourage inactive Catholics to return to the parish?

- The Diocesan Pastoral Council has met recently with the focus on 'New Evangelization'. They are working on how to best facilitate engaging inactive Catholics back into parish life.
- The Ministry Fair scheduled for Pentecost Sunday will provide an opportunity for all parishioners to learn about different ministries and committees within our parish and will also allow for volunteer sign-ups.

A number of questions arose concerning the financial health of our parish which has been reporting a weekly shortfall of ~\$2,000.

- Our reserve funds (currently ~ \$300,000.) are used to cover the weekly shortfall. It should be noted that since the institution of the 12:30 Sunday Spanish Mass, the shortfall has decreased.

- The Parish Council has requested that the Finance Council provide a printed financial report in addition to an oral presentation allowing for parishioner input, on an annual basis.

The method which the collections are taken up at mass was questioned. Some like using the long handled baskets; others would like to bring their offering up to the altar, while others like the current method.

- There was no single overwhelming parishioner response regarding the collections. Therefore, there is no current plan to change the procedure for taking up collections.

Some requests were made for specific liturgical changes within our parish.

- Although there currently is no formal Liturgy Committee in our parish, the specific requests were forwarded to the priests for their consideration.

What were the Parish Council's thoughts on their first Town Hall meeting?

- We were generally pleased with the response and look forward to hearing from a larger group of parishioners in the future.
- Our plan is to schedule another Town Hall meeting in the fall.

Sincerely,

The St. Rose Parish Pastoral Council:

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