

18 December 2008

**St. Rita Men's Club
December 2008 Monthly Meeting**

The meeting is called to order by President Tom O'Hare. Father Tom led the opening prayer.

Those present are:

Joe Colello Michael Conmy Gene Fowler Chick Huettel Jim Kelly Ross Leo Jim Mahan
Fred Murphy Tom O'Hare Vern Quast Dick Ryan Bob Wish Michael Klein Father Tom

Minutes from the last meeting of 20 November 2008 were read by Michael Klein. Vern Quast corrected the minutes to read the ending balance thru 16 October 2008 is \$1,699.62 and add the word Merry to 'it's ok to say Merry Christmas. Dick Ryan made a motion to accept the minutes as read and corrected, seconded by Ross Leo and carried.

The Treasurers Report was presented by Treasurer, Vern Quast. The ending balance thru 20 November 2008 is \$1,639.62. There is one debit of \$100.00 for the Christmas Buttons.. The ending balance thru 18 December 2008 is \$1,539.62. Jim Mahan made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report, seconded by Fred Murphy and carried.

Old Business

Father Tom Collins said the new freezer is full. Jim Kelly said the Men's club will have to share and coordinate use of the freezer with other church activities.

Jim Kelly reported on the progress of the exterior lighting. He did the entrance church lighting mostly with donated materials and labor. He will submit expenses for materials purchased. Spot flood lighting was added on the west side of the building exterior and parking lot lighting was repaired by Gulf Atlantic Electric. One parking lot light pole on the west side of the building is not yet repaired. Lighting in the church interior is improved by turning the existing up lighting down. All work was completed in one month. Tom O'Hare contacted Chelco. The cost to add additional parking lot light poles is approximately \$2,000.00 per pole. There may also be ways to increase lighting output at the existing poles. Father Tom said we may be satisfied with the work we have done.

Joe Colello gave an updated summary to the planning of the first fish fry dinner detailing cooking location, cooking tent and equipment, traffic flow, serving table, seating table layout and job assignment. Dick Ryan will be in charge of signage and signage location. He stated we had a good turnout last year because of advertizing and signage directing traffic to St. Rita from Hwy 98 and 393. Dick Ryan made a motion for expenses of up to \$100.00 for new signage, seconded by Vern Quast and carried. Tom O'Hare asked for someone to keep track of our dinner signage and added Resort Quest has reported reservations are down 30% from last year at this time. Jim Kelly added most rentals places lowered their rates additionally on the 15th of December. Joe Colello stressed the importance of marketing thru advertizing at condos, other church bulletins even putting flyers on cars in parking lots. He stated the importance of taking special care of people at the first Fish Dinner to insure good results at the future dinners. He does not know the cost of the fish dinners yet. The attendance at last year dinners were;

1st Fish Dinner	423 dinners served
2 nd Fish Dinner	514 dinners served
3 rd Fish Dinner	310 dinners served
Pasta Dinner	208 Dinners served.

Tom O'hare asked if there is any concern about parking lot traffic control. Joe Colello said no.

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Tom O'Hare asked for an update on the building project. Father Tom said the Master Plan Development Order was approved by the Walton County Planning Commission with few minor changes. The next step is approval from the Walton County Board of Commissioner's scheduled for January 2009. Don Rutland is working on the wetland permit. Everything must be approved by the Diocese. Because of the current bank financial climate, the first phase of the project will have to be funded out of savings and not from any Diocese building loan. The first phase is a 5,000 s.f. building on the west end of the property by the current administration building. It will be used for classroom and office. Some remodeling of the existing administration building and improvements to the parking area is also planned.

New Business

Tom O'Hare asked the Men's Club to support and develop a plan to assist elderly parishioners and others who either cannot drive at night or need assistance in getting to St. Rita Wednesday's Spirit night. Jim Kelly suggested a long range plan to secure a 9-12 passenger van for this purpose. Father Tom said he would support the Men's Club sponsoring a van. Jim Kelly made a motion to investigate the costs and other requirements of owning and operating a transportation van and developing a Transportation Ministry, seconded by Joe Colello and carried. Jim Kelly, Joe Colello, and Tom O'Hare volunteered to work on this committee.

Jim Kelly suggested to set a date for the winter Men's Club Card Night and suggested guest speakers to attract membership. Tom O'Hare said the executive committee will start meeting in February. The 15 January 2009 Men's Club meeting will be held as planned because of the first Fish Fry Dinner on 16 January 2009.

No other new business was presented.

Bob Wish made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Jim Mahan and carried. Father Tom closed the meeting with a prayer.

End

Michael Klein, Secretary
St. Rita Men's Club