

**St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church**  
**FINANCE COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**  
**August 27, 2009**

**Members and staff present:** Fr. Jerry Ragan, Pat Fair, Matt Nieman, Keith Darr, Joe McBride, Dori Thorstad

**Members and staff not present:** Harry Dolyniuk, Pat Douglas, Mike Hagler, Patti Leopard, Gene McManus, Jim Purcell

**Minutes:** The minutes from the May 20th meeting were approved with no corrections.

**Financial Reports:** The July, 2009 Financial Reports for the school and church and the budgets for fy2010 for the school and church were provided to the committee at the meeting for their review. Dori reviewed the reports although there were no significant issues to address. The budgets were prepared with no increase in the offertory or church stewardship to the school. As of the meeting date the offertory was under budget but slightly higher than the same time period in fy2009

Two issues discussed for the school, tuition paying families are down compared to fy2009 and the budget has been adjusted to note this. Also, overall student enrollment is down from 459 to 435. Dori mentioned that she and Mary Davis, Development Director has been discussing ways of marketing the school for the upcoming year in an effort to improve these numbers for fy2011.

**Tuition:** This item was discussed briefly at a meeting last year, but Dori felt it important to revisit this issue. This had been discussed with Father Ragan who agreed. While most of the school revenue is through St Mary Church support, there is revenue generated from tuition from families new to St Mary Parish and School, Catholics who are parishioners of other churches in the CSRA, non Catholics and St Mary Parishioners who chose not to participate in the way of stewardship of the parish. As our tuition continues to increase, it becomes more and more of a burden for those paying to afford St Mary School. Dori asked the committee to reconsider a discount for families with more than one child in the school and to also consider making a request to the school endowment committee to offer monetary assistance to Catholic families new to the Augusta area and St Mary Parish Church and School. The committee agreed that this issue is worth discussing again.

**Bank Change:** Dori informed the committee that after discussing the change with Pat Douglas, that we would move our church and school checking accounts sometime this fall. Two banks have submitted proposals that are, for the most part, exactly the same. They are First Bank of Georgia and First Citizens.

**1431 Arsenal Avenue:** The home on the church campus block between the rear parking lot and the Annunciation House is on the market by owner. The committee felt the church should look into purchasing this property. It is large lot, the house currently is 2 one bedroom, 1 bath apartments that are easily rented due to our close location to ASU. Dori was going to make an appointment to see the house the following week, then arrange an appraisal.

**Immaculate Conception:** Father shared with the committee the Bishop's response to a letter sent by Eric McArdle and Pat Fair regarding the move of Immaculate Conception School to the campus of the Church of the Most Holy Trinity. The Bishop still feels it is the entire Augusta Deanery's responsibility to support the school.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 5pm** in the Church Parish Hall. The audit will be presented at this time. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dori Thorstad