

St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church
FINANCE COMMISSION
Minutes
April 28, 2009

Members and staff present: Fr. Jerry Ragan, Pat Fair, Mike Hagler, Patti Leopard, Matt Nieman, Keith Darr, Joe McBride, Dori Thorstad, Terry Wick

Members and staff not present: Harry Dolyniuk, Pat Douglas, Gene McManus, Jim Purcell

Parking Lot: The committee met with Michael Caudill, Aiken Augusta Paving in the church parking lot to review the parking lot proposal originally made and tabled at the September 23, 2008. It is to repair, repaint, install a sleeve (for electricity to be run from the rectory to the garage) and sealcoat the parking lot. The committee voted to move forward with this project as soon as feasible. The cost will be \$13,000.00. *Please note that this is a fix that should buy us 3 to 5 years – at that time we hope to re-design (the plans were completed several years ago) and re-asphalt, a need that we have now but simply did not the funds available to do so.*

The meeting then moved to the Church Parish Hall. Fr Jerry opened the meeting with a prayer. Pat Fair welcomed Mike Hagler to the committee.

Minutes: The minutes from the March 24th meeting were approved with no corrections.

Financial Reports: The March, 2009 Financial Reports for the school and church had been mailed to the committee prior to the meeting for their review. Dori reviewed the reports pointing out there is still a deficit in the budgeted offertory but that all ministries, programs, and parish staff are aware of the economic downturn and are making adjustments to their budgets in light of this.

Dori also pointed out that due to cash flow problems the latter part of 2008 transfers to the bond escrow savings account, while budgeted at \$32,000 a month were not made for October, November and December, however in March and again in April an extra deposit of \$32,000 was made and the plan is to make up the additional \$32,000 by the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2009).

The committee was reminded that in fy2007 the church pledged \$200,000 to the Aquinas capital improvement account for the cafeteria project to be paid in equal amounts over four years and the 3rd of 4 payments was made April 20th.

School Budget: The proposed school budget had also been mailed to the committee prior to the meeting for their review. Dori informed the committee that the directive by Father Ragan had been to put together the budget without an increase in stewardship. Keith Darr explained that this was accomplished by reducing the anticipated payroll cost increase (90% of the budget) by one – attrition, two - re evaluating staffing and three, reducing the normal pay increase to half of what it typically is (90% of last year's Richmond County Board of Education pay scale). The other large reduction was the request by Jimmy Carrick, maintenance, to and subsequent agreement by Jani King – school janitorial service - to reduce their cost by 20%. The rest of the budget was completed by looking at school needs, year to date expenditures for overhead which was then annualized and an increase for inflation taken into consideration. It was also pointed out the budget presented is balanced and includes \$42,300 for capital improvement needs. Dori informed the committee that the school's phone system needs to be replaced (can no longer get parts to repair) and hopefully, if there is not a need for this money for emergency issues, that the phone system could be replaced next summer. The committee voted to accept the budget.

Tuition and Registration: No new information to report.

2008 Giving Reports: The committee was given the most current 2009 offertory compared to pledge report for the parish and school families for their information.

Other Business:

Bank: Dori gave the committee a report on the changes that have been implemented at Region's bank since it's merger, which took place December, 2007 (approximately). We are now being charged with deposit fees, for check stop payments etc, that were never charged before. She informed the committee that she had met with the bank manager in an effort to have these charges stopped and to make sure the church and school had the appropriate business checking accounts (they offer four) but has had no success. She requested approval to search for another bank. Mike Hagler suggested

she speak with Pat Douglas – Morgan Keegan is the securities arm of Regions - to see if he could make some inquiries on our behalf before making a change as this has up front costs associated with it – personnel time, checks and deposit slip costs, etc. This will be done.

Immaculate Conception School: Fr Ragan again expressed his concern that Immaculate Conception was moving to the church campus of Most Holy Trinity and that the Bishop continues to expect the deanery churches to support what he now considers another parish school. He also stated that he felt he could not continue to voice his objections as his points have been made clear. He again asked this committee as well as the pastoral council for direction. Pat Fair said he would move forward with Eric McArdle on this matter.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 20th at 5pm in the Parish Hall.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended with a prayer at 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dori Thorstad