

**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**May 13, 2013**  
**Parish Hall**

**Attendees:** Jennifer Bovitz, Rhee Fincher, Martha Kearns, Eric McArdle, Deacon Ken Maleck, Walt Moore, Fr. Jerry Ragan

The meeting was called to order at 5:41 PM with prayer.

The minutes of the 3/25/2013 meeting were approved.

**Parish Mission 2013:** Fr. Peter Vasko, leader of Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, is recommended by Fr. Jerry as our speaker this year. After brief discussion, the council unanimously endorsed inviting Dr. Vasko, feeling that spiritual insights from the American Catholic leader in the Holy Land would be spiritually enriching and educational for the parish.

**Tithe Account** – The following uses of the tithe account were discussed and endorsed:

- Living in Love – Marriage enrichment and forming mentor-protégé relationships for couples preparing for marriage are the primary goals. This program has been very successful and seems to be a very positive way to promote stable marriages. At SMOTH, it is led by Jim and Lorena Smith.
- Paying off BA – It looks as if SMOTH is likely to fall short of meeting its commitment through parishioner contributions by approximately \$20,000-30,000; the council discussed and endorsed the parish paying the difference if needed.
- Family Forward (previously called Interfaith Hospitality) received a small contribution from the tithe account in FY 2013; council endorsed this allocation for FY 2014.
- Consider supporting Wounded Warrior program, which is a local support program to which SMOTH has contributed in the past and the Ancient Order of Hibernia

**Strategic planning and leadership formation:** Several months ago the council began discussing a strategic planning process regarding use of the collateral for the bond to set up an endowment fund. The funds will be available in about 7 years and the sum is expected to be about \$4M (but could be less). The Council recommends developing a plan for how the endowment funds should be used (anticipate up to 4% allocation). As next steps, we need to determine the purpose of the endowment fund and a strategy for leadership development, both in the context of priest leadership skills and parish leadership transition.

The council discussed engaging Fr. Bill Dickinson, Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI), to conduct a 4-month (one day/month) program for parish leaders focusing on effective pastoral leadership transition and developing a more effective lay leadership team. Potential participants could be the Pastoral Council, School Commission, Strong Catholic Families-Strong Catholic Youth program leaders, and selected staff. After lengthy discussion, the council decided to “table” the possibility of engaging the CLI in part because of lack of outcome goals to justify the expenditure.

At the next meeting, the council will discuss potential uses of the endowment fund, such as scholarships for Aquinas families, scholarships to adults regarding faith formation, and capital improvements. The council will continue discussing potential approaches to leadership development and strategic planning, beginning with identifying the strengths and issues/problems/challenges of the parish. Some strengths

include living stewardship, perpetual adoration for 15 years, Catholic formation, parish school, CCD, and adult programs.

**Announcement:** Jimmy Carrick has resigned as facilities manager because he has accepted a job “he couldn’t refuse”. He is helping to facilitate as smooth a transition as possible and will continue to work at SMOTH 1 day/week until a successor has been identified.

Fr. Jerry mentioned the idea of developing a St. Joseph’s medal for those who have contributed substantially to the school.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher, Recorder