

**St Mary on the Hill Catholic Church  
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
Parish Hall  
5:00-6:00 PM  
January 12, 2009**

Present: Fr. Jerry Ragan, Fr. Mark Van Alstine, Eric McArdle, Steve Givens, Harmony Prestifilippo, Lisa Murray, Jim Purcell, Mike Hamilton, Rhonda Wallace, John Fisher, Rhee Fincher

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM.

Fr. Jerry opened the meeting with reading the Gospel for next Sunday, followed by reflection.

The minutes of the 12/15/08 meeting were approved with the change that Mike Hamilton and his daughter (not Jim Purcell's daughter) will help develop the digital ministry display.

Stewardship Prayer recommended by the Stewardship Commission

- Stewardship Commission recommends the following prayer  
Loving God, we come to you in thanksgiving, knowing all that we are, and all that we have, is a gift from you.

Speak your words into the depth of my soul, that we may hear you clearly. Give us the wisdom and insight to understand your will for us, and the fervor to fulfill our good intentions.

We offer our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to You as a true act of faith, to reflect our love for You and our neighbors. Help us to reach out to others as You, my God, have reached out to us.

Amen

- The Pastoral Council unanimously endorsed that SMOTH adopt the prayer above to be recited at any Mass where the vocations prayer is not recited. One or the other will be recited at every Mass.

Commission report: Adult Faith Formation – John Fisher

- Reported on the active adult and children's faith formation. See attached written report that includes for each ministry the number of people who participate, the strongest asset of the ministry, and opportunities for improvement.
- For Renewal 2009 commitment card, move Cursillo to Faith Formation from Community and Pastoral Care

Living in Love – Marriage enrichment retreat weekend – Fr. Jerry

- Goal is to help couples prepare for marriage

- Mini-workshop for married couples February 21-22, 2009
- See letter (attached) from Fr. Jerry
- Fr. Jerry is asking for suggestions of couples who would be well suited for this weekend experience and, ultimately, to serve as mentors (email suggestions to Fr. Jerry)

#### Partner in Excellence

- Greenberg process, begun 6 years ago, to evolve the parish into the “Commission model” has been beneficial and it is now time to consider additional models
- Several years ago, a group of business leaders formed the Leadership Roundtable on Church Management, meets annually at Wharton Center; Bishop Boland has participated in these meetings
- The Roundtable has produced Guiding Principles of the *Standards for Excellence: An Ethics and Accountability Code for Catholic Parishes*; Fr. Jerry recommends that SMOTH become involved in this initiative
- Initial reaction from the Pastoral Council: Positive about learning more; Lisa will order copies of the guidebooks for the Council to review
  - Would encourage “Catholicity”
  - An external “stamp” that we are striving to follow “best practices” would be perceived well by the parishioners

#### Other business

- Several members noted that some parishioners are overly noisy in the narthex during Mass. Fr. Jerry will talk with Fr. Cherian about this and will also ask the lead usher for each Mass to ask people in the narthex to be respectful of the appropriate demeanor for Mass

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 PM.

Feb 9, PH, 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher