

Pastoral Council Minutes
March 25, 2013
Parish Hall

Attendees: Katie Conner, Rhee Fincher, Martha Kearns, Eric McArdle, Walt Moore, Jim Purcell (chair), Fr. Jerry Ragan

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM with prayer.

The minutes of the 2/18/2013 meeting were approved.

Announcements

- Mission outcomes: Paul Zelinski continues working on new sign-ups for Adoration, which resulted from the very successful mission.
- Columbarium: Jimmy Carrick has plans from St. William's and will work towards envisioning what it could look like here.
- Changing Civil Structure of the Parish: Counsel of the Council was to follow the Bishop's lead. I mentioned it to him and I did not get a sense that he is ready to act on it at this time.
- 100 Years of Catholic Education on the Hill: Bishop Boland will celebrate the 5pm Mass on 10/19/2013 with a dinner following. John Scherer is holding a planning meeting on 4/2/2013.
- Year of Faith: Msgr. Chris Schreck will give a talk on Scripture and Vatican II on 4/3/2013 at Aquinas. Still working on the possibility of Fr. Robert Barron giving a talk in the fall.
- Strong Catholic Families; Strong Catholic Youth: Fr. Jerry is convinced that we need to help parents figure out ways of forming their families in a Catholic identity. In April's Marionite, he will be looking for those interested in helping Michael Lammers and Joan Purucker get this initiative active in our faith community.

Using the Bond Collateral to set up an Endowment Fund

Following a presentation by Tim Marshak and Charles May, the Finance Commission discussed its concern about the potential impact of fluctuating interest rates on bonds. The Finance Commission supports the endowment as an irrevocable trust, but feels ill equipped to determine the specific content of the trust and recommends careful strategic planning for the endowment fund. The endowment allocation should reflect the parish's strategic plan over about the next 10 years. Jim Purcell discussed changing the name of the account from the bishop's to the parish; legal counsel suggested the ultimate liability lies with the bishop. The important point is to ensure the purpose of the endowment is clearly articulated.

The group discussed the optimal process of strategic planning. Comments included: (1) Pastoral Council should be involved, but should be joined by additional parishioners to foster broad input and large-scale "buy-in" by the parish; (2) strategic plan should form the foundation for ongoing planning, assessment, analysis, and continued quality improvement; (3) development of a legal document that defines use of the endowment, ensuring the allocation is congruent with the mission, goals, vision, and values of the parish; (4) a facilitating group was suggested – and Catholic Leadership Institute was recommended as

an effective group. As part of the process, the endowment would be rolled into an irrevocable trust that defined how the money could be used. For example, suggestions included scholarships to Aquinas for students whose families have practiced stewardship or faith formation for parishioners. One element affecting realistic planning will be the impact of sanctuary and possible school development at St. Teresa's.

Plan: Jim asked Eric to explore his contacts for facilitators and seek proposals from those who might be interested. All PC members were asked to suggest names of parishioners who would be well suited to participate in the strategic planning process to Jim.

School Bus Proposal

- Approval by the Finance Commission, conditional on Joe's conversation with Fr. Ingram about use of a SMOTH school bus to transport students from Columbia County. Joe and Fr. Ingram had a "good" conversation. Fr. Jerry reported that the deanery meeting was difficult in that Fr. Jacek felt disconcerted by the proposal, feeling that it is a competitive action. Fr. Jerry has offered the possibility of collaborating with other parishes if they wish. St. Teresa's gives each parishioner who is in a Catholic school \$1000 toward tuition.
- After discussion, the Pastoral Council unanimously supported the proposal (see attachment).

Tithe Account

- Fr. Jerry will present Tithe Account proposal at the next Pastoral Council meeting.

Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA)

Response to the BAA has been very slow this year, resulting in SMOTH being further from its goal than in the past. Potential contributing factors could include problems with mailing out the material, parishioners who work at Fort Gordon or SRS and may experience (or have experienced) pay cuts because of the federal budget deficit, impact from the \$600,000 raised for Aquinas athletic facilities, or a combination of all. Fr. Jerry thinks the Bishop will be understanding of the situation, but he is disappointed that this may be the first time in 19 years as a pastor in this Diocese that his parish did not reach its goal. Concern was expressed about potential impact of sequestration on the SMOTH budget.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher