

Pastoral Council Minutes

5/24/10

Attendees: Jim Purcell (Chair), Steve Givens, Ken Maleck, Fr. Jerry Ragan, Katie Connor, Alicia Ramage, Harmony Prestifilippo, Eric McArdle, Walt Moore, Rhee Fincher

Guest: Jimmy Carrick

Excused: Lisa Murray

The meeting opened with prayer at 5:05 PM.

Minutes of the 4/26/10 meeting were approved.

Housing for Scouts: Jimmy Carrick recommends moving the Scouts from 2500 McDowell to the Annunciation House to better utilize space and conserve costs. The basement is currently vacant and the upstairs only used by Interfaith Hospitality; some bedrooms are not used at all. Cost of utilities for Scout House and Annunciation House is ~\$7000/month (\$2K and \$5K, respectfully). He suggests repairing house and then renting it.

After discussion, the members endorsed the concept of the move. However, several cautioned it is important to meet with the “stakeholders” and seek a consensus

Catholics Come Home: Deacon Ken will head parish response to the statewide program. At Advent there will be TV ads encouraging Catholics to come back to the faith.

St. Mary’s School Personnel Changes and School Commission: Fr. Jerry announced that Keith Darr is moving to become principal at Holy Trinity School, Washington, D.C. Fr. Jerry has asked Joe McBride to become interim principal; he will respond on Wednesday morning. In the fall, we will begin search process for permanent principal to begin in summer 2011. Fr. Jerry will ask Sister Rose Mary if SACS should be notified of the change. Eric will step down from leading School Commission to prevent any perception of conflict of interest with brother-in-law’s role as vice principal. Fr. Jerry asked Rhee Fincher to lead the commission through the summer.

Searches for resource (1 finalist candidate) and PE teachers (2 finalist candidates) are progressing well; the search for music teacher is less far along.

Keith’s contract goes through 6/30/10; he will complete evaluations prior to leaving; Joe is talking with other Catholic school administrators about their process. He will also talk with School Commission members who have educational administration experience. Fr. Jerry may ask a recently retired public school principal to serve as interim assistant principal.

Fr. Jerry commented that there are 100 fewer students at St. Mary's school than when he became pastor in 2001. He will charge the School Commission with a marketing role in an effort to reverse this undesirable trend. Steve noted that the class sizes at both Aquinas High School and St. Mary's School have diminished. The nearly \$8000/year tuition seems to play a significant role in leaving the Catholic education system after children graduate from the school of a stewardship parish.

Harmony queried about curriculum review and suggested strengthening as needed. These activities should be part of continuous improvement and it would be logical to include them as part of the leadership and teacher transitions. Mary Davis is conducting exit interviews to understand why parents are making the decisions they are regarding high school education.

FY 2011 Budget: is ready to be presented to the Finance Committee 5/25/10. Pat Fair and Dori Thorstaad will attend the June Pastoral Council to present the budget. There is an anticipated shortfall for FY 2010, but the parish budget is currently balanced.

Community Service: Fr. Jerry confirmed with the group that SMOTH proceed with another Habitat house on its own, without collaborating with another church. A core planning meeting has been scheduled for 6/1/10. The majority of the work will be done by skilled labor, but there will also be opportunities for volunteers to help.

The parish will make service contributions to Habitat (new house), VAMC community living unit sponsor, and Lydia Project.

50th Anniversary of parish school: Members were asked to mark calendars for the October 9, 2010 anniversary celebration.

The next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be 6/28/10.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher