

Pastoral Council Minutes
June 24, 2013
Parish Hall

Attendees: Jennifer Bovitz, Katie Conner, Rhee Fincher, Fr. Steve Givens, Avery Hanna, Martha Kearns, Eric McArdle, Jim Purcell, Fr. Jerry Ragan, Dori Thorstad (guest)

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM with prayer.

The minutes of the 5/13/2013 meeting were approved.

Finance Commission

- Budget was approved by the Finance Commission after discussion (See Budget Notes dated 6/7/2013 summarize the budget). Dori summarized the income and expenses expectations. Income is expected to remain fundamentally stable. Expenses will vary slightly and are detailed in the Budget Notes (not repeated here).
- Finance Commission needs two new members; Pastoral Council was asked for suggestions which should be sent to Dori.

School Commission

- 100th anniversary of Catholic education – October 19
- Fr. Jerry and Rhee need to discuss creating a St. Joseph Medal in recognition of people who have contributed substantially to SMS
- Fr. Jerry provided an overview of trends in Catholic education, including the fact that some Catholic schools are closing and being repurposed, the incoming kindergarten class at SMS will be smaller than in the past, changes in personnel must be made proactively to accommodate decreasing size of some Catholic schools. Fr. Jerry will continue to follow-up with St. Teresa regarding any possible school plans and with IC regarding its future.

Stewardship

- Fr. Jerry presented two letters that have been prepared for SMS families, one of which was sent on June 20, 2013 and the other which will be sent next week to families who seem not to be attempting to fulfill their stewardship commitment (e.g., participating in the Eucharist and tithing).
- Stewardship Commission will be focusing on formation, including 2014 renewal

Strategic Planning

- Need to decide what to ask the bishop when he comes for confirmation and we are preparing for leadership changes. Topics include strengths of parish and what is lacking; what challenges we as a parish are facing in the next decade (growth is primarily in West Augusta, not Richmond County); and for what purpose should we use the income from the endowment fund.
- Brief discussion of potential issues to discuss with the bishop
 - Bishop wants to be sure SMOTH is supportive of Aquinas (we believe we are)
 - Future of Catholic education – planning how to retain vitality and value of SMS, rather than concentrating unduly on how to deal with diminishing participation in Catholic education
 - Ask bishop to discuss his evolution of ideas about Catholic education over the last year

- More emphasis on adult formation?

Leadership Formation – Evangelizing Parish – September 27-28, 2013

- Fr. Jerry introduced a diocesan leadership program, entitled *Evangelizing Parish: Know, Celebrate, Share*, which will be held 9/27-28/2013 at St. Anne Parish, Richmond Hill. Fr. Jerry hopes a couple of people from SMOTH will be able to attend.

Facilities manager recruitment (attempts to replace Jimmy Carrick)

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher, Recorder