

**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**August 12, 2013**  
**Parish Hall**

**Attendees:** Jennifer Bovitz, Katie Conner, Rhee Fincher, Fr. Avery Hanna, Martha Kearns, Jim Purcell, Fr. Jerry Ragan

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM with prayer. The minutes of the 6/24/2013 meeting were approved.

Fr. Jerry presented the following proposed **parish policy** which, after minor editing, was endorsed unanimously.

“No sanctioned or organized athletic activities, including league or tournament games, practices, tryouts and scrimmages, involving parish teams, may take place on Sundays before 12:00 noon or on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or during the Easter Triduum. These time restrictions will also apply to the renting of the parish facilities to any organization with the exception being that the school kitchen may be rented during Masters Week.”

**AY 2014 planning discussion** followed, being mindful that this could be Fr. Jerry’s last year as pastor at SMOTH (bishop’s policy is to move pastors after 12 years). The following were discussed:

- The Bishop will visit SMOTH during his Confirmation visit on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 and will have a brief discussion with the council. The council wants the Bishop to know the following about our parish and its commitment to stewardship as he considers the possibility of a new pastor.
  - Pastor should have experience in a parish with a school (albeit not necessarily a stewardship-supported school)
  - Pastor’s style should be collaborative (rather than dictatorial) to help SMOTH continue to thrive as a very active parish with many meaningful parishioner-led ministries
  - Perpetual Adoration is a centerpiece of the faith community
- Get the Strong Catholic Families/Strong Catholic Youths off to a good start.
- Celebrate 100 Years of Catholic Education on the Hill – Activities will include: Bishop Boland will be celebrant at the Vigil Mass followed by an adult celebration at SMS; the *Marianite* (Oct) will feature 100 years of Catholic education; and the School Commission will work with Fr. Jerry to develop a St. Joseph’s Medal. The recipients should have given significant time, talent, and treasure to promote Catholic education in our faith community. The Council discussed several potential candidates.
- Strengthen the parish sense of the Church’s strong commitment to Social Justice, living the gospel, “The Lord hears the cry of the poor”. One example is to support Saints Overseas.
- Set up a Church Endowment Fund. Potential uses could include adult faith formation, assisting students to attend Aquinas, senior center. As a principle, the Council endorsed the idea of using the fund for supporting parishioners and not for capital maintenance.
- Plan for a Columbarium as increasing numbers of parishioners are opting for cremation
- Produce a welcome video that explains our parish “culture” and could be placed on our Website and perhaps also on You Tube

Gartland Award: Fr. Jerry asked for the names of potential candidates; he will begin with the “short list from last year’s suggestions.

Staff changes: Karen Brooks was recently hired in the office; Jimmy Carrick reconsidered his departure and will continue in his position at SMOTH

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM.

The remainder of the Pastoral Council meetings for FY 2014 will be:

September 23

October 21

November 25

January 27

February 24

March 24

May 19

June 23

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher  
Recorder