

**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**September 24, 2012**

**Attendees:** Jennifer Bovitz, Katie Conner, Rhee Fincher, Steve Givens, Martha Kearns, Eric McArdle, Jim Purcell, Fr. Jerry Ragan

**Excused:** Walt Moore

The meeting began at 5:30 PM with the prayer that was used at the beginning of each bishops' session at the Second Vatican Council.

**Renewal 2012** – Steve Givens

- 10/10/2012: Dinner at 6:00, 7:00 Bishop Hartmeyer will lead procession followed by benediction
- 10/13/2012: Mini-retreat at 10:30 (after Mass) – Ed and April Laughlin will present at this formation opportunity and present the lay witness talk at all Masses
- 10/20 and 21 – Commitment Sunday: Msgr. Costigan will preach at all Masses

**Stewardship** – Steve Givens

- New Mission: Formation – Fostering a culture of stewardship for entire parish and school families in particular
- The following suggestions for encouraging a culture of stewardship were discussed, but no definitive conclusions reached
  - Stewardship presentation in pre-cannas weekend for engaged couples
  - Commitment requirement for baptisms (parents already meet with priest)
  - Commitment requirement for weddings (meetings with priest already required)
  - Integrate with neighborhood dinners
  - Presentation in RCIA – Commitment card requirement?
  - Presentation in CCD – Commitment card requirement?
- School stewardship
  - Suggestion for one-on-one meeting with every family every year to foster a culture of stewardship that includes ongoing annual formation. Discussion of pros and cons followed. Concerns were expressed about the clergy being responsible for the meetings; Fr. Jerry supports the concept, with the caveat that time is an issue. Consider group formation meetings rather than individual, although this strategy has the risk of “preaching to the choir”. This formation opportunity could be the first activity of the Year of Faith
  - Expand time and talent offerings in Commitment Card to include as many activities as possible. Consider requiring all school families to participate in two faith formation events annually that are included on the Commitment Card.
  - Emerging idea: Plan a couple (few) formation activities for AY 2013, ensuring they are led by effective facilitators; Eric volunteered to identify facilitators/speakers from his national connections to ensure effective presentations.
  - Steve strongly recommended that a priest (Fr. Jerry or designee) take lead on meeting with people regarding their faith formation
  - Track/trend “commitment” of families when children are no longer at SMS

**Community and Pastoral Care**

- Pat Fair has resigned from the Pastoral Council and will no longer lead/be Pastoral Council liaison to the Community and Pastoral Care Commission.
- Ken and Ethel White have been on the commission for years and have been quite active, but never chair(s). Fr. Jerry will contact them to explore interest in chairing.
- Eric will probably become the Pastoral Council representative.

#### **Upcoming important dates**

- Oktoberfest Saturday, September 29th after the 5pm Mass. Please sign up in the Narthex ASAP.
- Vigil at the beginning of the Year of Faith Wednesday, October 10 – Fr. Jerry would like all members of the Council to be present.
- Confirmation Monday, October 22.
  - Bishop would like to meet with the Parish Leadership; office will send invitations to parish leadership for 4:30 group meeting with the bishop
  - Dinner will be at 5:30

#### **Gartland Award**

- Fr. Jerry sought suggestions for this year's recipients. Suggestions include Mike and Pia Hagler (early and consistent supporters of development of stewardship parish); sacristans (work hard and rarely recognized – Tom Maxwell mentioned as he was sacristan for AM Mass every day)

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher