

Pastoral Council Minutes
September 30, 2013
Parish Hall

Attendees: Jennifer Bovitz, Rhee Fincher, Steve Givens, Fr. Avery Hanna, Martha Kearns, Ken Maleck, Walt Moore, Jim Purcell, Fr. Jerry Ragan

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM with prayer. The minutes of the 8/12/2013 meeting were approved.

St. Joseph Medal

- After discussion Sr. Laura Ann Grady was selected as the inaugural recipient; presentation will be made on 10/19/2013 at the 100 years of Catholic education on the Hill celebration.

Stewardship Renewal – Lay Witness Talk scheduled for 10/26-27/2013

- Fr. Jerry will ask parents of seminarian Patrick May to speak.

Worship Commission – Assessment of Strengths and Challenges

- Post-meeting change based on Ken Maleck's discovery that he is not on the Worship Commission: Alvin Blount, SMOTH staff on the Commission, will be contacted and asked to discuss Worship Commission assessment with Commission before next Pastoral Council meeting; focus topic at next meeting. Probably either Jim Purcell or Fr. Jerry will contact him.

Pastoral Focus – SCF/SCY – Next meeting – 11/12/2013

Pastor's Varia

- **Natural Family Planning:** Now a parish level ministry (previously diocesan, then deanery); Joanna Watwood (SMOTH) is trained as natural family planner and Megan Sterett (Most Holy Trinity) is beginning the education process. Joanna will concentrate primarily on SMOTH parishioners, but Megan will receive support from Joanna. A member queried whether a recipient of support from the parish to complete training (about \$8000 total) should be asked to commit a certain minimum time to SMOTH. There seemed to be general support, but no decision was reached.
- **New staff at SMOTH**
 - Fr. Tom Murphy will begin as a part-time parochial vicar at SMOTH 10/1/2013
 - Deacon Tony Wagner has just moved to Augusta from Philadelphia where he was at Temple (now CFO at GRU); he is in the process of becoming credentialed to serve as a deacon at SMOTH.
- **Diocesan happenings**
 - There is a diocesan proposal to renovate the Pastoral Center (Liberty St., Savannah) as a diocesan office at a cost of \$5.5M. St. Mary's Home is closing and diocese would like to keep the building. Fr. Jerry expressed concern about the expenditure; Council supported him.
 - Capital campaign plans underway
 - Bishop will be at SMOTH for confirmation; new instrument to assess literacy of children prior to confirmation is being adopted.
 - No pastoral transition plans yet – Bishop will begin to discuss in early 2014

Commission Reports and Concerns

- School
 - Major initiatives - Marketing and enrollment, 100 years of Catholic education, Catholic identity (naming classrooms for saints), pre-K initiatives
 - Several additional ideas are being discussed

- Finance
 - Clean audit letter for FY2013

Important Dates

- 10/6 Living rosary at Aquinas 6:45 PM
- 10/11 Carnival Preview
- **10/19 100 Years of catholic Education – All Pastoral Council Members encouraged to attend**
- **10/22 Dinner with the Bishop before Confirmation – Gather at 4:30; dinner at 5:00; All Pastoral Council Members encouraged to attend**
- 10/27 Clergy & Religious Appreciation Dinner
- 11/12 SCF/SCY Meeting
- 11/24 Conclusion of the Year of Faith

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.

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

October 21 (Changed to October 22 "just prior to Confirmation")

November 25 (Changed to November 18)

January 27

February 24

March 24

May 19

June 23

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher
Recorder