

St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School
Pastoral Council
5:00pm Parish Hall
September 28, 2009
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Jim Purcell, Fr Jerry Ragan, Fr Mark Van Alstine, Deacon Al Sullivan, Steve Givens, Harmony Prestifilippo, Katie Conner, Alicia Ramage, Lisa Murray, Eric McArdle

Members Absent: Rhee Fincher, Walter Moore, Mike Hamilton

Fr Jerry began the meeting with prayers of gratitude.

Jim welcomed Katie Conner as a new member of Pastoral Council.

Jim began discussion on the items which were outlined on the agenda.

Agenda:

- **Mission Statement**

Fr Jerry asked everyone to reflect and review our current Parish Mission Statement. Do we need to make any changes? Please consider this over the next month for further discussion.

- **School Commission-** Eric McArdle

Eric gave a brief overview of the SMS Commission. The Pastoral Council decided to form this commission which is dedicated to our largest ministry, the school.

Eric went over the school parent survey. The SMS Commission took the results from the previous survey of 2007 and compared them with the results of this year's survey.

The commission is responsible for supporting the school and will be addressing the following concerns immediately:

- Assess strengths and weaknesses at school
- Gather information
- Look into the having a resource teacher

Fr Jerry and Eric McArdle sent a letter to Keith which stressed mutual goals for the school as well as the weaknesses and problems which were identified in the 2009 survey results.

Eric is hopeful that the newly appointed commission and the school/administration will have good dialog. At present, the commission feels like they need to gather more information.

There is currently a good cross section of SMS Commission members. Three members have strong education backgrounds:

Ruth Ann Vericella (a former educator and principal), John Strelec (a former superintendent of The Richmond County Board of Education) and Dr. Rhee Fincher (Dean at MCG)

Eric is going to have the teachers take a leadership perception survey. Our goal is to have the teachers strive for continued excellence in education.

Fr Jerry added that Keith's evaluation of teachers is also very important.

Sr Rose Mary Collins will need to meet with the commission at some time in the near future.

The school's funding source is from the church's offertory. There is a downward trend where the school is eating up more and more of the offertory.

Fr Jerry would like to see an Ad Hoc Committee formed and comprised of the following:

- 1-2 members of the SMS Commission
- 1-2 members of Pastoral Council
- Dori Thorstad
- A member of the Finance Committee

There goal would be to evaluate trends and make suggestions.

- Do we need to cap off the offertory percent which is given to the school for operating costs etc. at 60%?
- How much cutting room is there?
- Shall we get Dori to provide us with an analysis of income?

- **Fr Jerry's report:**

50th Anniversary of St Mary on the Hill School

Mary Davis and Ellen Hoffman are working on this and a committee is being formed.

GRACE- the form will be inserted in this week's bulletin; there also will be copies located in the Senior Center and Narthex.

GARTLAND AWARDS- Fr Jerry has recommended that the recipients of this year's Garland Award be Joan Purucker and Barbara Kareis.

- **Pastoral Focus**

Fr Jerry reminded everyone to keep this year's Pastoral Focus in mind.

- **Fundraising**

Abbott Frances Michael from the Holy Spirit Monastery will visit the weekend of November 14/15 and make an appeal to our parishioners. There will be no brochures put out in the Narthex and nothing will be sold in the Narthex.

Fr Jerry closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Murray