

**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**1/31/11**  
**Parish Hall**  
**5:04-6:00 PM**

**Attendees:** Fr. Jerry Ragan, Katie Connor, Steve Givens, Ken Maleck, Mike Hamilton, Eric McArdle, Walt Moore, Harmony Prestifilippo, Rhee Fincher

**Excused:** Jim Purcell (Chair), Lisa Murray

The meeting opened with prayer at 5:04 PM.

**Catholics Come Home program:** Ken reported that the SMOTH “gathering” has begun – about 11 people came to the first meeting, some as a result of pulpit appeal, some from family encouragement, and some from the recent commercials

**Role of Pastoral Council reading:** Overall, Council strives to keep its focus on principles, vision, and strategic directions, rather than “action” planning or coordinating ministries. Ministries should be run by parishioners rather than by the parish professional staff.

**Renewal – Report from Stewardship Commission – Steve Givens**

- CSC, Inc. – Seven-year Statistical Comparison presented (see summary sheet for details): Registered households stable (2531 to 2536), active households (1265 to 1374); total giving (12 months previous; \$3,765,043 to \$3,695,814); school family pledges slightly up
- Stewardship Commission called parishioners who returned card last year, but not this year – positive response from the 100 people called (some forgot and asked for card; some moved, etc.); one more request in next week’s bulletin
- Overall 2010 shortfall = \$50K
- Strategy for making budget cuts if needed: One member recommended the Finance Commission should make recommendations that are reviewed by the Pastoral Council; the pastor should receive guidance and recommendations from Finance Commission and Pastoral Council

**Immaculate Conception School:** After discussion, the group decided it is prudent to observe the natural development of the school’s ability to remain open, without active intervention at this time

**Radio:** Fr. Jerry thanked the group for its input. One member commented that Catholic radio is the only free public service to those who cannot afford other media, especially the Hispanic community. The group did not support a pulpit talk to promote, but did recommend a policy to make addressing such decisions easier.

**Serving the Master**

- Fr. Jerry initiated dialogue about the possibility of a mission initiative, which could be an international mission to a needy part of the world or rural/local Georgia (e.g., migrant farm workers or local Augusta community).
- Walt Moore reported that the Service Commission will ramp up VA support mission; will report at February Pastoral Council meeting.
- Consider a sister parish affiliation – e.g., we already send a monthly tithe to Millen parish and could expand this to include a monthly clinic.
- One member emphasized the importance of being part of a long-term project (e.g., become part of an orphan care project; SMS children could help prepare “care packages”). We need to look outside ourselves and our parish.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher