

**St Mary on the Hill Catholic Church
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Computer Room
5:00 PM
December 15, 2008**

Present: Fr. Jerry Ragan, Eric McArdle, Alicia Ramage, Steve Givens, Deacon Al Sullivan, Harmony Prestifilippo, Lisa Murray, Jim Purcell, Mike Hamilton, Rhonda Wallace, Rhee Fincher, John Fisher

Fr. Jerry opened the meeting with reading the Gospel for next Sunday, followed by reflection.

Reports from the Commissions

Finance Commission – Jim Purcell

- Prepared to make changes if economic change makes this necessary
- Commission is strong; functioning well; Fr. Jerry and Jim feel as if the members work well together – Commission shares vision with Fr. Jerry
- Pat Fair's quiet leadership has been effective in bringing the group together, defining the role of the Commission

Stewardship Commission – Rhee Fincher

- Year-round stewardship/Renewal
 - Commitments commensurate with last year
 - Recommendations that are being considered
 - Weekly stewardship prayer and prayer for vocations (perhaps alternate months – emphasizing year-round stewardship education and prayer)
 - Plan to implement at end of January at the end of the Prayers of the Faithful
 - Commission members agreed to daily prayer for stewardship
 - Parish website – improve to make it “stickier” – need volunteers to improve – Tommy and Rick have ability to do this – Eric volunteered they could devote work time to this.
 - Mike Hamilton will submit a “welcome intro” for Fr. Jerry's approval.
 - Digital ministry displays – 2-minute clips about each
 - Jim Purcell's daughter might be able to help
 - DVD to welcome people into our faith community – by Fr. Jerry
 - Consider ministry displays in September only (before renewal)
- Comments by group about the Stewardship Commission
 - More active than in the past
 - Fr. Jerry would like to implement stewardship prayer in January

- Monthly ministry displays
 - Inter-faith hospitality – not getting volunteers
 - Other negative comments about volunteers for men's basketball and other ministries that have been disappointed more people do not stop at tables/few additional volunteers from this activity

Worship Commission – Alicia Ramage

- New usher leader - Louis Blackstone – plan training for ushers, including
 - Welcoming, greeting, seating
 - Mass leader for each Mass should report to Louis to increase consistency among masses
- 6:00 PM Mass – music more often; going well
 - Sometimes practice perceived as too loud
- Perpetual Adoration
 - Eric will follow up with Catherine Tribby about Perpetual Adoration participation/leadership
- Prayers of Faithful
 - Consider shortening the number to 3 or so, rather than 5 or so as we add a weekly prayer
- Consider alter server training closer to when they begin serving
 - Fr. Mark and Deacon Ken Maleck are responsible
- Purification protocol – Fr. Jerry is working on simplifying description of process
- More reserved seats for baptisms

At the next meeting we will discuss 3 Commissions

- Faith Formation – John Fisher
 - Fr. Jerry recommended developing a family-oriented formation program for all of our children in the gospel values as part of the Faith Formation Commission. Need to define the oversight the commission should have over the school. Do we need a school board? Fr. Jerry has been resistant because school is part of parish, and would like to avoid a separate identify.
- Community and Pastoral Care
- Service

Brief updates on parish activities

Conquest – Steve Givens

- Faith formation for boys
- Nearly 40 boys attended the last meeting. The meeting schedule for Conquest is not completed at this time.

Challenge – Rhonda Wallace

- Faith formation for girls
- Projects: Caroling and blanket making for nursing homes

Retreat for marriage enrichment

- Feb. 20-21, 2009

Gabriel Guild

- Mike and Kathy Hebert

The minutes from the November 11, 2008 meeting were approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher