

Pastoral Council Minutes
January 30, 2012

Attendees: Katie Conner, Rhee Fincher, Pat Fair, Steve Givens, Mike Hamilton, Martha Kearns, Ken Maleck, Eric McArdle, Jim Purcell, Fr. Jerry Ragan, Fr. Scott Winchel

The meeting opened with prayer at 5:33 PM.

Deanery budget commitments: This will be the last year for a deanery budget; in FY 2012, MHT financial commitment to Aquinas has not been fulfilled (no payment since 10/2011), which will likely result in a \$15,000 deficit in the Aquinas budget. It is not known if the diocese will make up the shortfall; bishop would like the deanery parishes to commit as they have in the past (\$100,000). However, the bishop will consider alternative plans for the diocese's only deanery school. For FY 2013, Gene McManus (Aquinas board member) will explore commitment from St. Teresa's and Most Holy Trinity.

Health care bill and the attack on religious liberty: Bishop's letter was read at all masses 1/29/2012. Discussion included a suggestion for a letter campaign and bulletin information that includes relevant websites (perhaps including a letter that could be personalized and sent).

Living in Love program will be held the weekend of 2/11-12/2012. This is highly congruent with this year's pastoral focus on marriage and family life. Ron and Kathy Fair, previous spiritual directors, will be here to facilitate. Fr. Jerry asked the Pastoral Council to promote the weekend among parishioners.

Parish Appreciation Dinner will be held this Saturday, 1/4/2012. All Council members are encouraged to attend if possible.

Parish Lenten mission will be March 4-6, 2012. Fr. Bob Poandl will be the facilitator; focus will be on marriage and family life. Fr. Jerry strongly encouraged everyone to participate in this wonderful experience.

New ministries proposal: Jerry Marcott's proposals for health care of parishioners in need were discussed. The group supported the concept, but felt the general proposal in its current form was beyond the feasibility of the parish at this time. However, the proposal could be developed through discussion with Patty Lazotte (SMS nurse) to explore need and potentially be referred to Pastoral Care Ministries for further development depending on need identified. The pregnancy proposal should be referred to Kathy Prestofillipo (Birthright) for exploration. One member suggested exploring a partnership with a community hospital such as Trinity Hospital. A member commented that successful similar programs are often characterized by a nurse who visits the infirmed to identify needs. Consider partnership with St. Vincent DePaul for out-patient care. If this goes forward, it will be important to talk with diocesan lawyer about liabilities.

AV projectors for church: Fr. Jerry is exploring possibilities for upgraded AV projectors (for \$60K-\$90K, projectors could hidden behind eves (4 projectors for \$60K version; 2 projectors with additional features for \$90K); for \$30K, projector would hang from ceiling.

Budget for Ethiopian children support (GOALA Kids) for FY 2012: Two shipments have included religious articles, books, and clothing to support the mission school there. The items would be collected gratis and the cost would be shipping (about \$50/month). The home house is in Morristown, NJ (Philippi

House). The germinal idea emerged from a book on orphans of AIDS which resulted in Katie Conner getting in touch with Sr. Mary Lloyd (mother superior of the order) who recommended some specific ideas to begin a ministry. Mike Hamilton is now leading this ministry. Children in the 4th grade will be beginning a pen-pal program.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher