

**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**August 13, 2012**

**Attendees:** Jennifer Bovitz, Katie Conner, Rhee Fincher, Martha Kearns, Walt Moore, Fr. Jerry Ragan

**Excused:** Eric McArdle, Pat Fair, Steve Givens, Jim Purcell

The meeting opened with prayer at 5:40 PM followed by reflection on last Sunday's Gospel (John 6:51-58).

**Minutes** from 6/18/2012 approved. Fr. Jerry introduced Jennifer Bovitz and welcomed her to the Pastoral Council.

**Finances:** Fr. Jerry talked with Bill Cashin, facilitator of Finance Commission, about evolving financial status of the parish. Since the financial downturn in 2008, revenues have been flat and, recently, seem to be declining slightly. As a result, the following two recommendations were made: (1) all budget units have been asked to prepare plans to cut their budget by 10% and (2) position for social media, previously approved, has been placed on hold. After discussion, the Council supported the decisions to cut budgets by 10% (no staff cuts) and place the social media position on hold. Several staff members have independently already implemented cost saving measures. School roof (**QUESTION: Not sure this is the right roof**) must be replaced; air conditioning unit in the narthex should be replaced but will be deferred until later.

With help of the Stewardship Commission, we must get stewardship formation moving forward again (Steve excused from today's meeting).

**Bishop Emeritus Boland's letter** requesting donations for Patty Schreck at her retirement in honor of her 66 years of service to the diocese was discussed. The Council lauded the extraordinary duration and magnitude of Ms. Schreck's service to the diocese. After thoughtful discussion, the Council recommended a parish contribution of \$500 ; the parish priests and deacons will be invited to contribute individually.

**School Updates**

- **Aquinas** – Mrs. Chris Paul, who served as principal for 3 years, has accepted a new position as founding principal of a new school. The bishop will hold a “listening” meeting at Aquinas tomorrow evening.
  
- **SMS** – Mary Beth Mitchell has been appointed assistant principal of SMS. She and Joe McBride are already working effectively together.

**Deanery Adult Faith Formation committee** – Meg Mirshak will be parish representative on the committee. Relevant background includes being an *Augusta Chronicle* reporter and recent Notre Dame graduate. Deacon Ken Maleck heads the Faith Formation Commission – Katie and Jennifer are members (and representatives from the Pastoral Council). Fr. Jerry asked the commission to consider a survey to determine who is leading various faith formation activities, such as Bible reading, faith sharing, catechism reading groups, etc. within the SMOTH faith community. The individual group activities are so rich and valuable, but there is no listing of all of the active groups and opportunities.

**Ethiopian outreach** – Katie is taking over the leadership of this group in the wake of Mike Hamilton’s move. Financial support should be sent directly to the Mother House to help meet the children’s most basic needs (e.g., enough food to eat). They are always very grateful for all support. Katie will report further details as the relationship evolves.

#### **Announcements**

- 8/16: Flagpole start-of-school ceremony at 8:30 AM
- 9/3-7: Priests at annual retreat
- 9/15 – Stewards of Love summit held in March 2011; follow up will be held to conclude the year from 10 AM – 12 N
- 9/29 – Oktoberfest Appreciation dinner at 6 PM
- 10/6 – School Carnival
- 10/10 – Beginning of the Year of Faith program – 6-8:30 PM will include comments from Bishop Hartmeyer
- 10/22 – Confirmation Dinner at rectory (time TBA)
- 11/1-21 – Fr. Jerry at Jesus Caritas Assembly in Paris (one of two representatives from US)

**Year of Faith** – We should focus on the basics – E.g., how in a Catholic way to celebrate Christmas/Easter/ summer

- Fr. Jerry plans to bring in someone to help with perpetual adoration
- 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Catholic education on Hill
- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vatican II
- Fr. Jerry shared effective ideas from St. Michael’s Parish West End, Long Branch, NJ

After the closing prayer, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM. The next meeting will be 9/24/2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher