

**Pastoral Council Minutes  
November 28, 2011**

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

The meeting opened with prayer at 5:32 PM.

Parish issues for Fr. Jerry to discuss with the bishop

- Fr. Jerry reported that the bishop had a good meeting with priests of deanery. Issues they discussed included:
  - *Southern Cross*: Fr. Lewinsky suggested that the *Southern Cross* might not be a cost efficient way to communicate with the parishioners of the diocese.
  - Deanery budget: The deanery budget and fund allocation of it have been a “gentleman’s agreement”. The new pastors in deanery do not support the concept of a deanery budget as it has existed in the past. Therefore, as of June 2012, there probably will not be a deanery budget. Immaculate Conception and Aquinas will be especially impacted by this change. Assuming there is no deanery budget, Fr. Jerry suggests that SMOTH continue to give its contribution to Aquinas. The bishop indicated there might be increased support from diocese for the schools in the deanery. Currently, Aquinas is the only deanery high school in the diocese (all others are associated with individual parishes). Other parishes in the deanery already seem to consider Aquinas essentially to be a SMOTH school.
  - The next meeting with the bishop will be next week, a combined meeting of presbyters’ council with vicars.
- No other issues were identified for Fr. Jerry to bring up at the next bishop’s meeting

Parish Leadership – Pat Fair

- Several SMOTH ministries have been identified that have requests
  - Neighborhood dinners – It has become difficult to identify host families for the dinners; Fr. Jerry suggests arranging dinners interest group (e.g., kindergarten, Mother’s Day out, newlyweds)
  - St. Mary’s Council of Catholic Women – is inactive at SMOTH although it remains active nationally; group felt that activities of this group are likely subsumed under other ministries at SMOTH
  - Apron – looking for leadership; Martha Kearns will continue to look for new leadership, in the meantime, Margaret Dunstan is leading this group temporarily
- Liaisons to the Commissions
  - Strive for each commission to have a Pastoral Council liaison (see below) and for each commission to reach out to its ministries’ leaders to determine how each ministry is doing and if there are specific needs
  - Pastoral Council liaisons to Commissions

Commission	Pastoral Council Liaison(s)
Worship	Fr. Scott Winchel
Faith Formation	Ken Maleck and Katie Conner
School	Rhee Fincher
Service	Walt Moore

Finance	Jim Purcell
Stewardship	Steve Givens

- Stewardship Pro – New software to help organize and manage ministries
  - Data management issues: Ministry leader finalizes and corrects data as needed; most of the ministry leaders are gaining experience with the technology and like it
  - Stewardship Commission can now use data to analyze ministries and their activities
  - During the year, office staff can update database as Commitment Cards are submitted sporadically

#### Pastoral Focus

- 2012 - Formation in Catholic Marriage and Family Life. Upcoming activities include: (1) Fr. Bob Poandle will facilitate retreat in spring; (2) Living in Love marriage enrichment workshop in February; and (3) similar event for younger couples facilitated by Fr. Scott
- 2013 – Possibilities for pastoral focus for 2012 are: (1) Catholic Schools Making a Difference – will be centennial of Catholic education on the Hill or (2) holy year on 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vatican Council II (could celebrate empowerment of laity); Fr. Jerry emailed Vatican document which is pasted at end of minutes

#### Parish Finances

- Immediate Concern – Funding for Asst. Principal
  - Working on this
- School and Finance Commissions meet together tomorrow – School Commission recommends a 4% increase in tuition for AY 2013
- Tithe Account for next fiscal year
  - Ethiopian school project has sent its first materials; Kathy and Mike Hamilton will take over leadership and Katie Conner will continue to assist

#### Pastor's Miscellaneous

- New social chairman - Lee McCormick will take over from Patty May. Spring appreciation dinner will be first event

#### 2012 Stewardship renewal update – Steve Givens

- 655 commitment cards submitted (25% return rate)
- 2500 registered households
- Commitments
  - 600 prayer
  - 2516 talent
  - 65 new family commitments – never made commitment before
  - 622 financial - \$2.4 M (average pledge \$3800); increase of ~\$200,000 over last year

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhee Fincher

**Document sent by Fr. Jerry after meeting**

*Here is the text of the Pope's October 16 Angelus message, announcing the theme "Year of Faith" for the upcoming year in honor of the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council. And while we await the apostolic letter with further details, it seems obvious that it is meant to be a significant year in the life of the Church. Catholic University is already planning a 4 day conference in late September 2012 to kick things off and I am sure there will be many other possibilities.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Yesterday and today there was an important event here at the Vatican regarding the new evangelization, an event that concluded this morning with a Eucharistic celebration over which I presided in St. Peter's Basilica. The initiative, organized by the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, had the main objective of going deeper into the issues surrounding a renewed proclamation of the Gospel in nations with an ancient Christian tradition, and at the same time, it presented various testimonies and significant experiences. Numerous people from around the world have responded to this invitation, people committed to this mission, which Blessed John Paul II already clearly indicated to the Church as an urgent and gripping challenge.

[John Paul II] — in the footsteps of the Second Vatican Council, and those of Paul VI, the one who put the council's implementation into motion — was, in fact, a tireless defender of the mission ad gentes, that is, to the peoples and territories where the Gospel has not yet put down roots, as well as a herald of the new evangelization.

These are aspects of the one mission of the Church, and it is therefore meaningful to consider them together in this month of October, marked by the celebration of World Mission Day, precisely next Sunday.

Just as I did a few minutes ago in the homily of the Mass, I happily take advantage of this opportunity to announce that I have decided to convoke a special "Year of Faith," which will begin Oct. 11, 2012 — the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council — and will conclude Nov. 24, 2013, Solemnity of Christ, King of the Universe.

I have explained the motives, goals and guidelines of this year in an apostolic letter that will be published soon. The Servant of God Paul VI convoked a similar "Year of Faith" in 1967, on the occasion of the 19th centenary of the martyrdom of the Apostles Peter and Paul, during a period of great cultural changes. I believe that, now that a half century has passed since the opening of the Council, and linked to the happy memory of Blessed John XXIII, it would be opportune to remember the beauty and the centrality of the faith, the need to strengthen and deepen it, both at the personal and the community level, and to do this in a perspective that is not so much celebratory, but rather, missionary — precisely in the perspective of the mission ad gentes and the new evangelization.

Dear friends, in the liturgy of this Sunday, we read what St. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians: "For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction." May this word from the Apostle of the Gentiles be the promise and the program for the missionaries of today — priests, religious and laity — committed to proclaim Christ to those who do not know him, or those who have reduced him to a mere historical figure. May the Virgin Mary help each Christian to be an effective witness of the Gospel