

**Minutes of the 490th Meeting  
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council  
Fr. John Vaughan Community Center**

**August 12, 2021**

**Members Present:** Fr. John Thomas, Samantha Taylor-Kaai, David Hemingway, LaWanna Brand, Peggy Bellew, Mark Heinz, Kelsey Rhodes, Russell Vaughn, Kathryn Wimsatt

**Members Absent:** Brenda Clark

**Parish Team:** Deacon Richard Murphy, Donna Murphy, Eddy McFarland, Donna Tarantino

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Samantha Taylor-Kaai, chair, opened the meeting at 6:45 pm.

**II. Prayer**

Fr. John Thomas led the PPC in prayer.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved as written for the June 10, 2021, meeting.

**IV. Liaison Reports – Samantha Taylor Kaai**

**A. Parish Finance Committee – Mark Heinz**

Eddy McFarland announced last year we finished in the black. Our parishioners were very generous and we are in good financial position.

**B. Liturgy and Worship – Brenda Clark (Donna Tarantino on her behalf)**

Donna Tarantino reported five new altar servers have been trained. There is a need to increase the number of liturgical ministers and training is taking place for those that are interested. Fr. John Thomas announced new liturgical restrictions, due to Covid, are in effect August 9, 2021. This includes masking being encouraged and Communion not being distributed on the tongue. Eddy McFarland stated the 7:00 am Mass will be livestreamed on Wednesdays beginning August 18, 2021.

**C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Peggy Bellew**

Peggy Bellew reported the next Social Concerns meeting is August 19, 2021. She added Joe Abel is stepping down as chair. Deacon Richard Murphy stated our St. Vincent de Paul Conference this year has spent over \$100,000. helping those in need, and our food pantry is doing a booming business. He reminded the PPC of our special collection for St. Vincent de Paul on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

**D. Education and Formation/Spiritual Enrichment – LaWanna Brand**

LaWanna Brand announced the Cathedral Preschool begins on August 23, 2021. They are continuing to offer the wrap around program. Donna Murphy reported the RCIA program has started. Faith Formation is beginning on September 12, 2021 with Hannah Bland utilizing a different format. Donna T stated a woman's forum, "what women want," is being hosted by Mary Ann Joyce. Discussions will be held at 12:45 and 7:00 pm on August 24, 2021. Donna T reported 7 couples have registered for Grace Marriage which begins August 21, 2021. Pat and Suzanne Padgett will be the facilitators.

**E. Youth – Samantha Taylor Kaai**

No report.

**F. Buildings and Grounds – Russell Vaughn**

Russell Vaughn reported the campus is looking good. New windows have been installed at the Youth House and the office building. Jeff Payne has done lots of work at the Preschool this summer. The Community Garden worked well this summer. The baptismal font is experiencing a leak and they are searching for a solution.

**G. Marketing and Communications - David Hemingway**

David Hemingway reported that even though the committee has not met there will be a new Christmas Ornament for 2021.

## **H. Community and Family Enrichment – Kelsey Rhodes and Kathryn Wimsatt**

Kathryn Wimsatt thanked Margie Ebelhar for hosting the retirement party for Fr. Jerry. Donna T announced we will have a food drive for the Dedication Anniversary on September 5, 2021. There are no plans for a dinner, raffle or burgoo.

## **V. Long-Range Plan – Donna Murphy**

Donna Murphy reported that due to Covid the time frames and the deadlines for goals have passed. For right now the plan is in limbo.

## **VI. Stewardship Update – Donna Tarantino**

Donna Tarantino reported that some ministries have ceased but several are operating. The backpack ministry is starting up for the new school year. St. Vincent de Paul has continued to help clients all thru Covid by using the phone instead of in person visits. Other ministries that have been ongoing include: the community garden, the card ministry, the buildings and grounds committee, and the church cleaners. The funeral meal and Welcome Sunday ministries started back up but have been suspended due to Covid. At this moment ministry is very challenging. Time, Talent, and Treasure renewal will take place in November.

## **VII. New Business**

Eddy McFarland commented that Fr. Sinoj was a blessing for our parish during Fr. Jerry's medical leave and the transition of pastors.

## **VIII. Unfinished Business**

None

## **IX. Pastor's Comments**

Fr. John Thomas announced Fr. Sinoj has been a delight and helpful to him personally and professionally.

Fr. John Thomas complimented the entire SSC staff. He is in the process of meeting with each staff person. He is planning on filling the Director of Youth Ministry position. He is restructuring the 9 member PPC to a 3 year staggered PPC. He needs 4 members on the present PPC to sign on for a 1, 2, or 3 year term. He asked members to contact him before the next meeting and let him know if they are willing to continue and for which time frame.

## **X. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.**

Peggy Bellew was wished a Happy July Birthday. Peggy and Harry Bellew, Kelsey and Ben Rhodes, and Margie and Jeff Ebelhar were wished a Happy July Wedding Anniversary. Kathryn Wimsatt was wished a Happy August Birthday. Richard and Donna Murphy, and Samantha and Duncan Kaai were wished a Happy August Wedding Anniversary.

## **XI. Adjourn**

The next meeting is September 9, 2021. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar