

**Minutes of the 516th Meeting
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council
Conference Room at the Parish Office**

December 12, 2024

Members Present: Fr. John Thomas, Dirk Dooper, Gary Gant, Joe Harris, Suzanne Padgett, Katie Pagan

Members Absent: Daniel Best, David Danhauer, Russell Vaughn

Parish Team: Donna Murphy, Cheryl Powell

I. Call to Order

Dirk Dooper opened the meeting at 6:05 pm.

II. Prayer

Fr. John Thomas led the PPC in prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as written for the November 14, 2024, meeting.

IV. Liaison Reports – David Danhauer

A. Parish Finance Committee – Fr. John Thomas (on behalf of David Danhauer)

Fr. John Thomas reported the stewardship drive continues. 188 pledges have been returned. About ½ of the school families have not returned their pledges and will be receiving a letter.

B. Liturgy and Worship – Suzanne Padgett

Suzanne Padgett announced the cassocks and surplices have been well received. The Worship Aid Announcements are also going well. Parish Advent Communal Penance Service is December 22, 2024, at 2:00 pm. The following is the Christmas Mass schedule: Eve 4:00 and 11:00 pm Blessed Sacrament 7:00 pm, Christmas Day 9:00 am. Bishop Medley is presiding on December 29 at 11:00 am to open the Jubilee Year. January 1, 2025 is Mary Mother of God Holy Day with Mass at 9:00 am. Blessed Sacrament Vigil Mass is at 6:00 pm. January 4, 2025, at 10:00 am is the Diaconate Ordination.

C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Joe Harris

Joe Harris stated, regarding the Ministry Fair, that Fr. John Thomas indicated that it would be best to offer this in January or February. Catholic Charities of Owensboro with Refugee Resettlement has requested help from our parish. Habitat for Humanity is having a Disciple Build event on January 15, 2025. The parish youth will be involved with this process. The St. Vincent de Paul Society's goal, if contributions pick up, is to increase staff to three days per week. Parishioners will be given the opportunity to donate to the following organizations during the Lenten Season: SSC Emergency Food Pantry, the Pitino Soup Kitchen, Catholic Charities of Owensboro Refugee Program, and the Help Office of Owensboro.

D. Education and Formation/Spiritual Enrichment – Fr. John Thomas (on behalf of Daniel Best)

Fr. John announced the Pray & Play will meet on January 16, 2025, with the group continuing to study Jesus and the Eucharist. The 2nd grade class has been split into 2 classes, with Jessica Lusk and Donna Richard as Catechists. Faith Formation, as part of Serve Saturday, has a service project collecting gently used toys to the local shelters. Serve Saturday is December 21, 2024, beginning with Mass and after Mass they will deliver toys to the shelters. First Friday Adoration was not held December 6, 2024, due to the lack of commitment. A Praise & Worship Holy Hour with Reconciliation was held with light attendance on December 8, 2024, at 4:00 pm. Breakfast with St. Nicholas will be December 14, 2024, from 9:00-11:00. There are 47 children attending and 22 volunteers helping with this fun event. We currently have 7 families preparing for their children to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism.

E. Youth – Katie Pagan

Katie Pagan reported they are starting sign-ups for NCYC and mission trips soon. They are planning a local mission trip around Owensboro again this year. They are also partnering with St. Pius to do a high

school mission trip to New Orleans. Youth group has wrapped up the semester and ended the year decorating the youth house for Christmas and a hot cocoa bar. The young adults had an ugly Christmas sweater bowling fun event. The young adults also had a “sidesgiving” which concluded with a game night. They had a wonderful time at ODYC with 20 kids and 5 adults.

F. Buildings and Grounds – Fr. John Thomas (on behalf of Russell Vaughn)

Fr. John Thomas reported Hartz is going to examine the feasibility study bill and will concentrate on what the study did and did not include. There have been problems with the heating units for the church.

G. Community and Family Enrichment – Gary Gant

Gary Gant reported we have received 188 pledges from families. About ½ of the school families have returned pledges. Volunteers will follow with calls.

V. New Business

Fr. John Thomas reported we have not paid the bill for the Feasibility Study. We are waiting for the Hartz report.

VI. Unfinished Business

Members of the PPC need to send a picture and biography to Crissy.

VII. Action Items

Fr. John Thomas will inform Karina about applying for a NCYC grant from the Horn Foundation.

VIII. Pastor’s Report

Fr. John Thomas announced he has heard lots of positive comments about the surplices and cassocks. Deacon Conrad will be ordained to the Deaconate on January 4, 2025. His priesthood ordination is May 31, 2025, at 10:00 am. His first Mass will be June 1, 2025, at St Stephen Cathedral.

IX. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.

Happy December 12th Birthday to Donna Murphy and December 25th Birthday to Fr. Shibu. Happy December 19th Anniversary to Katie and Jason Pagan.

X. Closing Prayer

Fr. John Thomas led the PPC in a closing prayer.

XI. Adjourn

The next meeting is a Christmas Party on Thursday, January 9, 2025, in the rectory at 6:00 pm. Members are asked to bring an appetizer and a Dirty Santa gift. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar