

**Minutes of the 507th Meeting  
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council  
Conference Room at the Parish Office**

**December 14, 2023**

**Members Present:** Fr. John Thomas, David Danhauer, Lauren Calhoun, LaWanna Brand, Katie Pagan, Russell Vaughn, John Wright

**Members Absent:** Dirk Dooper

**Parish Team:** Fr. Shibu, Donna Murphy, Rick Rhodes

**I. Call to Order**

David Danhauer, Chair, opened the meeting at 6:00 pm. Fr. John Thomas introduced new Council member, Katie Pagan.

**II. Prayer**

Fr. John Thomas led the PPC in prayer.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved as written for the November 9, 2023, meeting.

**IV. Liaison Reports – David Danhauer**

The new liaison committee assignments are: Parish Finance Committee – David Danhauer, Liturgy and Worship – Lauren Calhoun, Social Concerns - Dirk Dooper, Education and Formation – LaWanna Brand, Youth – Katie Pagan, Buildings and Ground - Russell Vaughn, Community and Family Enrichment – John Wright.

**A. Parish Finance Committee – David Danhauer**

No report. Fr. John Thomas stated the response to “Increased Offering” is good. There have been several year-end gifts, and several increases in regular giving.

**B. Liturgy and Worship – Lauren Calhoun**

Lauren Calhoun reported James Wells has returned for the weekend Liturgies and the choir is back. The Christmas Mass schedule has been published in several places. Fr. John added the two KY Wesleyan concerts were well attended. The Kentucky Youth Chorale will perform on December 19, 2023. The Communal Penance Service is December 17, 2023, at 2:00 pm.

**C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Dirk Dooper**

No report. Fr. John announced Steve Wathen is the new chair for St. Vincent de Paul. Fr. also reported just under \$10,000. in gift cards was donated to the Giving Tree.

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

No report. Rick Rhodes reported 15 are in RCIA. It is a young group with several teens. The Rite of Acceptance will be at the 4:30 Liturgy on December 16, 2023. The Family Movie Night is December 15, 2023, at 6:00 pm. Many have signed up.

**E. Youth – Katie Pagan**

Fr. John read the report from Karina Romero. She stated over 30 youth are registered and placed in 5 small groups that meet twice a month. Nine Cathedral members attended NCYC in Indianapolis. Small group leaders and Karina have been attending activities in support of our youth. Many of our youth are attending Christmas/New Year’s camp at Gasper River. Karina and some of the small group leaders are attending as volunteer counselors. About 20 young Adults meet weekly in small groups to do book and Bible studies together. Our young adult women met and made 40 blessing bags for the homeless population in Owensboro. Karina has been doing check-ins with the Young Adults of the parish.

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

Russell Vaughn reported Bob Stone is back on the job. Christmas trees will be set up in the church on Thursday, December 21, 2023.

## **G. Community and Family Enrichment – John Wright**

No report

## **V. New Business**

John Wright announced Cargill has donated a substantial amount to the Daniel Pitino Shelter. Due to this he proposed a name change for the Cathedral Soup Kitchen. By consensus, the PPC approved to affirm the right of the Daniel Pitino to change the name of the Cathedral Soup Kitchen. LaWanna Brand requested that a printed monthly calendar be made available in church for parishioners. Fr. John Thomas handed out “Guidelines, Policies, and Best Practices for Parish Pastoral Councils” published by the Diocese of Owensboro. He encouraged all members to read the guidelines and come back in 2 months with questions and concerns.

## **VI. Unfinished Business**

Discussion will continue concerning transporting parishioners. Committees are challenged in their structure on how to Encounter Christ.

## **VII. Action Items**

Alex Reid will present his work proposal, “Encounter 2024 – Encounter Christ, Encounter Love, and Encounter Community at Saint Stephen Cathedral.”

## **VIII. Pastor’s Report**

Fr. John Thomas announced the PPC Christmas Party will be Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the rectory. He stated the office will be closed noon December 22, 2023 and will reopen on January 3, 2024. He went over the Christmas Season Mass schedule.

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

Donna Murphy and Fr. Shibu were wished Happy December Birthdays. Katie and Jason Pagan were wished a Happy December Wedding Anniversary.

## **X. Closing Prayer – Fr. John Thomas**

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

## **XI. Adjourn**

The next meeting is scheduled Thursday, February 8, 2024. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar