

Minutes of the 492nd Meeting
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council
Fr. John Vaughan Community Center

December 9, 2021

Members Present: Fr. John Thomas, David Hemingway, LaWanna Brand, Lauren Calhoun, Brenda Clark, Mark Heinz, Kelsey Rhodes, Russell Vaughn

Members Absent: Samantha Taylor- Kaai, John Wright

Parish Team: Fr. Sinoj, Donna Murphy

I. Welcome and Call to Order

David Hemingway, chair, opened the meeting at 6:10 pm.

II. Prayer

Fr. Sinoj led the PPC in prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as written for the October 14, 2021, meeting.

IV. Afghan Refugees

Fr. John Thomas announced the parish staff decided to help with providing adequate housing to the Afghan refugees by offering the Youth House as temporary housing. Three siblings, the oldest 18, will be coming next week. Karina Romero will be the point person on staff. The PPC approved the use of the Youth House as temporary housing for an Afghan Refugee family.

V. Liaison Reports – David Hemingway

A. Parish Finance Committee – Mark Heinz

Mark Heinz reported collections are still behind budget. After 22 weeks of the fiscal year we have received \$460,720.60 which is \$21,585.40 less than budgeted. The following are Special Collection amounts: Afghan Refugee Relief - \$1,090.12, Fresh Start for Women - \$1,030.00, Help Office - \$755.00, St. Gerard Life Home - \$578.00. The fiscal year to date amounts for on-going Collections are: Food Pantry - \$6,007.26, Backpack Ministry - \$1,940.00, Giving Tree - \$2,485.00. The Baptismal Font repair on-going. The cost will probably not exceed \$8,000.00.

B. Liturgy and Worship – Lauren Calhoun

Lauren Calhoun reported 12 to 15 people attended the recent altar server training. She announced the choir is now singing regularly at Mass. Covid restrictions for music ministry have been lifted and “full singing” is occurring at Liturgies. The bells have returned at the Consecration.

C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Samantha Taylor -Kaai (LaWanna Brand on her behalf)

LaWanna Brand reported the Stephen Ministers will start a class in January with Rita Robertson as the teacher. We have 7 Stephen Ministers in our parish.

D. Education and Formation/Spiritual Enrichment – LaWanna Brand

LaWanna announced the RCIA program is going great. The sponsors were commissioned last week. The Advent Small Group Scripture Study has not been well attended. The Cathedral Preschool has been busy with their Christmas Programs. Fr. John Thomas announced that during Lent a Study of The Book of Revelations will be presented by Fr. Daniel Dillard.

E. Youth – Kelsey Rhodes

Kelsey Rhodes reported a woman’s group was started last week with a coffee and doughnuts gathering. The Children’s Ministry Winter Palooza was held on December 19, 2021, for children from preschool thru 4th grade and their families.

F. Buildings and Grounds – Russell Vaughn

Russell Vaughn reported all is well with buildings and grounds. Help is needed with Christmas decorating on December 21, 2021.

G. Marketing and Communications – John Wright

No report.

H. Community and Family Enrichment – Brenda Clark

Brenda Clark reported that a committee, headed by Vickie Warren, is making Birthday Bags for the residents at St. Benedict's. Due to weather The St. Nicholas with Jesus Neighborhood Walk was postponed to December 12, 2021. Welcome Sunday resumed after the December 5th Sunday morning Masses and was well attended.

VI. New Business

The name badges were delivered to the new PPC members present at the meeting. The Diocesan Synod is coming up soon and Fr. John Thomas handed out the "Parish Toolkit for the diocese of Owensboro" packet. This Synod is different because it is coming from the people. Every parish will have 2 listening sessions and will provide feedback to the Bishop. Our listening sessions will be January 27, 2022, and February 24, 2022, at 6:00 pm. Fr John Thomas asked PPC members to attend the sessions.

VII. Unfinished Business

None

VIII. Pastor's Comments

Fr. John Thomas invited everyone to the PPC Christmas Party at the rectory on January 6, 2022, at 6:00 pm. The Christmas Open House at the rectory will be January 1, 2022, after the 4:30 pm Mass.

IX. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.

Fr. John Thomas, Kelsey Rhodes, and Russell Vaughn were wished a Happy November Birthday. Donna Murphy and Mark Heinz were wished a Happy December Birthday.

X. Adjourn

The next meeting is January 13, 2022. It will be held in the Conference Room at the Parish office; please use the Staff entrance. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar