

**Minutes of the 493<sup>rd</sup> Meeting  
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council  
Conference Room at the Parish Office**

**February 10, 2022**

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

**Members Absent:** John Wright

**Parish Team:** Fr. Sinoj, Donna Murphy

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

David Hemingway, chair, opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

**II. Prayer**

Fr. John Thomas led the PPC in prayer.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved as written for the December 9, 2021, meeting.

**IV. Liaison Reports – David Hemingway**

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

Mark Heinz referred to his written report. He stated Fr. John Thomas has appointed Chris Warren as Chair and Kristine Henning as Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee. We have received a \$15,000. bequest. A total of \$11,900. has been donated to the Cathedral Food Pantry. The Giving Tree donations amounted to \$8,893. with \$6,860. spent; the surplus was donated to Catholic Charities for Tornado Relief. The Diocesan Audit of the parish is underway.

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

Lauren Calhoun stated James Wells hopes the choir will be able to return in time for the Lenten season. The Finance Committee has given tentative approval for a piano to be purchased for the choir loft. Music Director, James Wells, estimates a piano would cost approximately \$10,000. Rick Rhodes has assembled a flyer with Lenten opportunities for prayer. Volunteers are needed during Lent to lead the Stations of the Cross on Fridays after the 12:05 pm Mass.

**C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Samantha Taylor -Kaai**

Samantha Kaai reported the Annual Parish Lenten Collections will go to the following groups: Backpack Ministry, Heralds of Good News, St. Vincent de Paul, and Cathedral Food Pantry.

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

LaWanna Brand handed out the above-mentioned Rick Rhodes' flyer "What should I do for Lent??" Fr. Daniel Dillard will present a Study of The Book of Revelations on Wednesday evenings from March 2 thru April 13, 2022, 6:00 - 7:30 pm in the Community Center.

**E. Youth – Kelsey Rhodes**

Kelsey Rhodes reported 5 youths went to Gasper River for Christmas camp with Karina Romero as their counselor. Karina has visited the Catholic schools to make connections with faculty and students. Sign-ups are going on now for Youth 2000. Karina is coordinating with adults who have recently signed up to help with Youth Ministry. Young adults are meeting every Thursday night for Game Night, Scripture Study, Catechesis Nights etc. It is all going well. There is a young adult women's group that meets every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday that is doing a study on the Trinity.

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

Russell Vaughn reported repairs to the Baptismal Font were undertaken, and have not yet proven to be successful. The repairs to the Rose Window and various interior walls were scheduled but didn't happen due to a shortage of workers at Wilkerson Plastering. The bell tower is getting water in it and damaging the wood structure. The parking lot behind the church will be re-sealed and striped when the weather

allows. The addition of a small sewage pump in the Bridal Suite, to help with backup problems, has been delayed due to Acme Plumbing not been able to obtain the needed parts for the project. Fr. John Thomas stated there will a storage space added just beyond the choir loft in the bell tower space. Choir robes will be stored in the new space. The cabinet in the sacristy where the choir robes are currently hanging will house the server albs and Communion hosts.

**G. Marketing and Communications – John Wright**

No report.

**H. Community and Family Enrichment – Brenda Clark**

Brenda Clark reported the January 2, 2022, Rectory Christmas Open House was attended by approximately 40 people. Brenda discussed the possibility of including the QR code, which includes the history of the church, in the bulletin. She announced funeral meals are up and running. Brenda reported that Amanda Reffitt stated the Meal Train is underutilized. Discussion was held concerning how to reach more

people. Donna Murphy volunteered to call Amanda to discuss the situation and the Parish staff will do more reaching out to parishioners. Brenda announced “Welcome Sunday” is returning on Sunday March 6, 2022. A date needs to be set for the Welcome Reception for new parishioners. Volunteers are needed for the March 25, 2022, Fish Fry. The charge will be \$12.00 per person with 10 and under free.

**V. New Business**

None

**VI. Unfinished Business**

None

**VII. Pastor’s Comments**

Fr. John Thomas reminded the PPC members that Lent begins on March 2, 2022. Fr. John Thomas reported there was a noise complaint from the Diocesan Tribunal concerning the Preschool. This problem has made him realize we need a Long-Range Planning Committee. He would like 2 PPC members to be on the committee. Donna Murphy recommended John Wright for the committee. Lauren Calhoun, LaWanna Brand, and Russell Vaughn expressed interest in being on the committee. Fr. John Thomas stated there is a need to have the elevator extended up to the choir loft and expanded in size so a casket will fit. The hospital elevator would not affect the exterior wall except at the very top. The Finance Committee has approved further study of actual costs. James Wells has requested that the choir loft organ be renovated and restored. Fr. John Thomas announced Hannah Bland is entering the Passionist Monastery and her last day was February 9, 2022. He also stated that Donna Tarantino has submitted her resignation and is retiring March 31, 2022. He is waiting until June to hire new staff. Lauren Calhoun added she would attend the Northwest Alliance Neighborhood Meetings and would represent St. Stephen Cathedral.

**VIII. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.**

LaWanna Brand, Samantha Kaai, and Margie Ebelhar were wished a Happy January Birthday. Brenda Clark was wished a Happy February Birthday. Fr. Sinoj was wished a Happy January 6<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary.

**IX. Closing Prayer**

Fr. Sinoj led the PPC in a closing prayer.

**X. Adjourn**

The next meeting is March 17, 2022. It will be held in the Conference Room at the Parish office; please use the Staff entrance. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar