

**Minutes of the 487th Meeting  
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council  
GoToMeeting - Virtual Meeting**

**January 14, 2021**

**Members Present:** Fr. Jerry Riney, Samantha Taylor-Kaai, David Hemingway, Mark Heinz, Kelsey Rhodes, Kathryn Wimsatt

**Members Absent:** Peggy Bellew, LaWanna Brand, Brenda Clark, Russell Vaughn

**Parish Team:** Fr. Sinoj, Deacon Richard Murphy, Eddy McFarland, Donna Tarantino, Deacon Corey Bruns

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Samantha Taylor-Kaai, chair, opened the “COVID-19” virtual meeting at 6:10 pm.

**II. Scripture - *At Home with the Word***

Instead of reading Scripture Fr. Jerry asked PPC members the question, “has there been a silver lining during the Covid 19 Christmas Season for you?” Members reflected on this question.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved as written for the October 8, 2020, meeting.

**IV. Finance Updates - Eddy McFarland**

Eddy McFarland reported the Finance Committee has not met since September 2020. The parishioners have been very generous, and collections are over budget for this year and ahead of this time last year.

**V. Liaison Reports - Samantha Taylor-Kaai**

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

No report.

**B. Liturgy and Worship – Brenda Clark (Fr. Jerry on her behalf)**

The rosary is being prayed after the 12:05 pm Mass for our country and for a smooth transition. Jim and Donna Duffy, our Wedding Coordinators, are retiring from their position. The parish would like to replace them with 3 different teams with 2 people per team. Please send names of possible candidates to Fr. Jerry or Donna Tarantino. All agreed the church environment was beautiful for the Christmas Season. Ash Wednesday is February 17, 2021. Due to Covid the ashes will be sprinkled over the head. Mass times will be 7:00 am and noon at the Cathedral, and 6:00 pm at Blessed Sacrament. Members were asked to contact Margie Ebelhar or Fr. Jerry if they are able to distribute ashes. During Lent the Stations of the Cross will be held after the Noon Mass on Fridays and on Monday evenings at 6:00 pm. The PPC will lead the stations on March 1, 2021, and Samantha will reach out to members concerning volunteering for that date. Eddy McFarland reported they are still in the process of upgrading the speaker system in the church.

**C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Peggy Bellew (Donna Tarantino on her behalf)**

Donna Tarantino announced \$11,765. was raised for the 2020 Giving Tree. As a result the Pitino Pitino Shelter was gifted with 65 new blankets, 48 OCS school families were assisted, 13 parish or community families representing 16 children were given gifts, Birthright was given baby items, Fern Terrace residents were presented with gifts, and 30 St. Vincent de Paul client families were helped. Donna thanked Audrey Bowlds, who has worked with the Giving Tree for over 20 years. Fr. Jerry thanked Donna for helping to coordinate the project. Eddy McFarland added that since the arrival of Covid \$6,400. has been donated to our food pantry. Jeff Mattingly and Kathleen Johnson have been buying the food and others bag it up. Eddy also announced that Pat Serey made a donation to St. Vincent dePaul in honor of the PPC.

**D. Education and Formation/Spiritual Enrichment – LaWanna Brand (Fr. Jerry on her behalf)**

Fr. Jerry announced the “Welcome Back” program is on Tuesday nights at 6:00 pm. He reported the RCIA program has 4 candidates. A committee has been established to search for a new Director of the

Cathedral Preschool. Eddy McFarland reported there has not been a single case of Covid transmitted at the preschool. There are 98 students enrolled this year with 36 of those also enrolled in the WrapAround Care program. Due to Covid there has been a staff increase of 7 for a total of 20 staff members. Fr. Jerry stated First Reconciliation will take place 2:00 pm on January 24, 2021.

**E. Youth – Samantha Taylor-Kaai**

No report.

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

No report.

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

No report

**H. Capital Campaign/Porch Renovation – Eddy McFarland**

The Capital Campaign officially ended December 31, 2020. There is no debt and pledges are still coming in. More security is being added with the additional funds. Fr. Jerry thanked Eddy and Donna Tarantino for heading up the Campaign.

**I. Community and Family Enrichment – Kelsey Rhodes and Kathryn Wimsatt**

No report. Fr. Jerry led a discussion about the annual Lenten Fish Fry; due to Covid it was cancelled.

**V. Long-Range Plan – Donna Murphy**

No report.

**VI. Stewardship Update – Donna Tarantino**

Donna Tarantino reported that out of the 570 pledges mailed out we have received 225; that represents about a 40% return to date. She has been performing tasks related to the returned pledges. Training for those who have signed up for Liturgical Ministries is underway. Beginning the second week of February we will resume a regular rotating scheduling of ministers. She thanked Mike Weafer for his overseeing the scheduler program. Chrissy Kurtz is coordinating the new Card Ministry; cards will go to our homebound/nursing home parishioners.

**VII. New Business**

Deacon Corey Bruns detailed his duties while at the Cathedral for the Christmas Season. This included: preaching at Mass, assisting at Mass, conducting server training in Covid protocol, helping in decorating the church and rectory, assisting with livestream ministry, and during Advent was present at Sunday evening Holy Hour. Deacon Corey will be ordained May 22, 2021. Deacon Richard Murphy announced that registration is open through March for the Fall 2021 Deacon Class.

**VIII. Fr. Sinoj Comments**

Fr. Sinoj reported more of our homebound parishioners are requesting to receive Communion. Visits to nursing homes are still prohibited. Hospital visits are only allowed for death situations.

**IX. Pastor's Comments**

Fr. Jerry announced SSC gave Bishop Medley a set of vestments as a gift for his 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Bishop of Owensboro. Fr. Jerry stated in order to stay connected to the church community he has initiated many One Calls, the parish team has produced Daily Scripture videos, and a letter from the parish has been mailed monthly with 2 with extended bulletins. Masses are livestreamed daily during the weekday at noon. Weekend Masses are livestreamed at 9:00 am Saturday morning and 4:30 pm Saturday evening. He asked for suggestions to better stay connected with parishioners.

**X. Adjourn**

The next meeting is tentatively March 11, 2021. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar