

**Minutes of the 497th Meeting
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council
Conference Room at the Parish Office**

June 9, 2022

Members Present: Fr. John Thomas, David Hemingway, John Wright, LaWanna Brand, Brenda Clark, Samantha Taylor Kaai, Russell Vaughn

Members Absent: Lauren Calhoun, Mark Heinz, Kelsey Rhodes

Parish Team: Eddy McFarland, Hunter LeBlanc

I. Welcome and Call to Order

David Hemingway, chair, opened the meeting at 6:01 pm.

II. Prayer

Fr. John Thomas led the PPC in prayer.

III. Hunter LeBlanc Introduction

Fr. John Thomas introduced our summer seminarian Hunter LeBlanc. Hunter spoke to the PPC about his background. He also told the PPC how he has been spending his days in our parish.

IV. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as written for the May 12, 2022, meeting.

V. Liaison Reports – David Hemingway

A. Parish Finance Committee – Mark Heinz (Eddy McFarland on his behalf)

Eddy McFarland reported that thru the first week of June actual collections of \$1,067,703. are \$6,524. below year-to-date budget of \$1,074,277; that is 99.4% of the budgeted amount. A total of \$18,111. has been donated to the Cathedral Food Pantry with \$27,955. being spent during the first nine months of the fiscal year. Eddy McFarland presented the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget that has been recommended by the Finance Committee. The St. Stephen Parish Pastoral Council approved the budget. Fr. John Thomas added we should have a new Parochial Vicar by mid or late August. Eddy McFarland reported the sound system in the church died in a power outage. Research is being done on how to best replace it. Brother Martin is coming June 10 to look at the baptismal font and will give a recommendation on how it can be restored.

B. Liturgy and Worship – Lauren Calhoun (Fr. John Thomas on her behalf)

Fr. John Thomas reported the parish community recently celebrated the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. On the Feast of Corpus Christie June 18-19, 2022, our diocese will resume the practice of the communal cup and communion on the tongue.

C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Samantha Taylor -Kaai

Samantha Taylor Kaai announced the May meeting was postponed and the next meeting is August 18, 2022. The Pitino Shelter team works on the 3rd Sunday of each month. The St. Benedict's team works on the 3rd weekend of the month as both companion volunteers and meal providers. More volunteers are needed for both these ministries. The Diocesan Lenten Collections include Diocese of Mandeville: \$3,838.82, Catholic Relief Services: \$1,665.00, Rice Bowl: \$1,024.58, Care of Infirm Priests, \$685.00, Holy Land: \$996.25, Seminary: \$2,026.00, Ukraine: \$14,009.05, Home Missions: \$440.00. The Parish Collections include St. Vincent de Paul during Lent: \$10,111.26, Backpack Ministry during Lent: \$1,961.00, fiscal year-to-date: \$18,111.22, Herald of Good News: fiscal year-to-date: \$7,261.00. John Wright mentioned the St. Stephen Soup Kitchen at the Pitino Shelter is low on food. Samantha noted the Diocese oversees the Soup Kitchen. Fr. John Thomas added our Food Pantry starting on June 10, 2022, will be handing out only one bag of food instead of three. We are transitioning to being an emergency food pantry.

D. Education and Formation/Spiritual Enrichment – LaWanna Brand

LaWanna Brand reported she is going to St. Leo Church in Murray on September 28, 2022, to talk about Stephen Ministry.

E. Youth – Kelsey Rhodes (Margie Ebelhar on her behalf)

Margie Ebelhar reported 26 kids are registered for camp at Gasper River this summer. Karina has started a prayer partner program for all the youth going to Gasper River this summer. Every Sunday she will send out names of our kids going to Gasper so prayers will be said for them. Vince Carrico registered for the mission experience through the diocese, Mission: Eucharistic Life. Karina will be attending with him. Hunter and Karina are meeting with incoming seniors to chat with them about their future and what we as a parish can do for them.

F. Buildings and Grounds – Russell Vaughn

Russell Vaughn reported the elevator and plumbing projects have been put on hold. Our new head of Buildings and Grounds is Bob Stone.

G. Community and Family Enrichment – Brenda Clark

Brenda Clark was complimented for her work on the successful Patio Party. Over 100 people attended the party. Brenda thanked Russell Vaughn for his help.

H. Long Range Planning – John Wright

John Wright reported the first meeting will be held at 4:00 pm on June 16, 2022. Members of the new committee members include Fr. John Thomas, John Wright, Dirk Dooper, Joyce Gruenwald, Janice Scherm, Dean Behnke, and Eddy McFarland

VI. Unfinished Business

None

VII. Pastor's Report

Fr. John Thomas stated Fr. Sinoj is returning from India on June 9, 2022, and will be transferred on June 21, 2022. The job search for a Business Manager and Pastoral Associate is ongoing. A priest from India is coming as our Associate Pastor.

VIII. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.

Brenda and Sy Clark were wished a happy 38th June Wedding Anniversary!

IX. Closing Prayer – Fr. John Thomas

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

X. Adjourn

The next meeting is August 11, 2022. It will be held in the Conference Room at the Parish office; please use the Staff entrance. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar