

**Minutes of the 517th Meeting
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council
Conference Room at the Parish Office**

March 13, 2025

Members Present: Fr. John Thomas, Dirk Dooper, Daniel Best, David Danhauer, Gary Gant, Joe Harris, Suzanne Padgett, Katie Pagan

Members Absent: Russell Vaughn

Parish Team: Fr. Shibu, Donna Murphy

Guest: Eddy McFarland

I. Call to Order

Dirk Dooper opened the meeting at 6:02 pm.

II. Prayer

Fr. John Thomas led the PPC in prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as written for the December 12, 2024, meeting.

IV. Liaison Reports – David Danhauer

A. Parish Finance Committee – David Danhauer

No report.

B. Liturgy and Worship – Suzanne Padgett

Suzanne Padgett announced the church environment is stark for Lent. The Communal Stations of the Cross is offered each Friday during Lent, following the 12:05 pm daily Mass. Lenten Extended Confessions will be offered April 4, 1-5:00 pm & April 5, 2025, 9:30-4:00 pm. The Cathedral Communal Penance Service will be Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025, at 2:00 pm. Easter Vigil Service is April 19, 2025, at 8:00 pm. Easter Sunday Liturgy is April 20, 2025, and will be 6:00, 8:30, and 11:00 am.

C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Joe Harris

Joe Harris stated it was decided the Ministry Fair should be held this Fall in connection with Prayer, Service and Generosity. Catholic Charities of Owensboro with Refugee Resettlement only had one family to resettle. The committee decided it will focus on the needs of the Pitino Shelter and St. Benedict's Shelter. There will be someone from the committee at the Fish Fry to answer questions about volunteering with these 2 groups. The committee will be updating the Soup Kitchen e-mail list. The St. Vincent de Paul donations are up so they are increasing the amount given to each client. Ann Futrell is compiling an operational manual.

D. Education and Formation/Spiritual Enrichment – Daniel Best

Daniel Best announced the Pray & Play is taking a break during Lent. Faith Formation is going well. We had a whole family event celebrating the life of St. Valentine. In March, Faith Formation is focused on the season of Lent. First Eucharist sessions have begun again with great participation. Children's Liturgy of the Word and First Friday Adoration are both going well. Several families are preparing for their child to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. The adult VBS volunteer meeting is on March 23, 2025, in between the Masses. There will be an Easter egg hunt between the Masses on Easter morning. Individually wrapped candy for this event will be collected through March 30, 2025.

E. Youth – Katie Pagan

Katie Pagan reported the youth, 8th Grade thru Seniors, had a great time at Gasper's River Christmas and New Year's Camp. We partnered with St Pius X for our annual Middle School lock-in over Martin Luther King weekend. Almost 40 kids were in attendance. The Lazarus Retreat was held February 14-16, 2025, with 3 of our high school youth at the powerful Retreat. A youth ministry Super Bowl Party was a fun time. Eleven youth are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation which will take place on Pentecost Sunday. Youth groups are focusing on Lent. Sign-ups have begun for our July High School Mission Trip to New Orleans. Soon, we will have sign-ups for our local Middle School Mission week. Youth 2000 had 23 middle and high school youth attending. The young adult women gathered for a Galentine's Girls

Night. They had a Young Adult Communion and Coffee where time was spent talking about fostering their interior deserts this Lent. Young Adult Volleyball is every Thursday night at the OCMS gym. Karina is currently in conversation with the Diocese about fully taking over the OBKY Catholic young adult initiative and bringing it under the Cathedral.

F. Buildings and Grounds – Fr. John Thomas (on behalf of Russell Vaughn)

Fr. John Thomas reported the boiler in the rectory was leaking and it has been repaired. Bob Stone repaired Fr John’s leaky shower and called a plumber to replace tiles with stainless access plates. Bob received a quote of \$6,000. to change all lighting in church to LED; does not include labor. Bats cannot be removed until August. Bob is getting quotes to replace red mats in church and adding one to the side door by the confessional. The backings are all dry rotted. A vacuum cleaner was purchased for the youth house and base board trim was installed to cover gaps between the floor and wall of the youth house

G. Community and Family Enrichment – Gary Gant

No report. Others reported the February 15, 2025, New Member Reception went well, and the Fish Fry was scheduled for March 14, 2025.

V. New Business

Eddy McFarland stated that the parish and Hartz Construction complained about the cost of the RBS facility study so loudly that it was lowered to the original quote. Fr. John Thomas stated a capital campaign is needed for renovation and improvement projects for our parish. Eddy described the potential projects from a list generated by himself and Fr. John Thomas. The PPC broke the list into needs and wants. The following is the list of “needs”: removal of bats from parish attic and remediation of damage caused by bats, repair of church windows and repairs to associated interior damage, improvements to plumbing in church basement, improvements in the rectory – specifically electrical and plumbing, improvements to the Church ramp. The following is the list of “wants”: upgrades to the Church elevator, additional parking, constructing a building to be used for storage and a small maintenance shop, construction of a parish hall, acquiring the property on Cedar Street south of the Community Garden, renovation of the Church pipe organ. The PPC agreed to form a subcommittee that will: 1. Evaluate the “needs” and “wants” of PPC, 2. Obtain timely cost analysis, 3. Formulate foundation for future Capital Campaign, 4. Routinely report monthly to PPC. Suzanne Padgett, Dirk Dooper, and David Danhauer agreed to serve on the subcommittee as PPC members. Parishioner Eddy McFarland will also be on the committee along with other parishioners that Fr. John Thomas will appoint later.

VI. Unfinished Business

VII. Action Items

Fr. John Thomas will form the Church Renovation Committee.

VIII. Pastor’s Report

Fr. John Thomas announced Rick Rhodes will be retiring this Spring and Sr. Jeannette will be leaving in June. Deacon Conrad is fulfilling his military duties on Florida.

IX. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.

None

X. Closing Prayer

Fr. Shibu led the PPC in a closing prayer.

XI. Adjourn

The next meeting is Thursday, April 10, 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar