

**Minutes of the 508th Meeting
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council
Conference Room at the Parish Office**

March 14, 2024

Members Present: Fr. John Thomas, David Danhauer, LaWanna Brand, Dirk Dooper, Katie Pagan

Members Absent: Lauren Calhoun, Russell Vaughn, John Wright

Parish Team: Fr. Shibu, Crissy Stevenson

I. Call to Order

David Danhauer, Chair, opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

II. Prayer

David Danhauer led the PPC in prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as written for the December 14, 2023, meeting.

IV. Liaison Reports – David Danhauer

A. Parish Finance Committee – David Danhauer

David Danhauer reported we are “in the black.” The diocese is conducting a payroll and retirement audit. David Danhauer requested a finalization report for “Increased Offering.”

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

Fr. John Thomas stated extended hours for Lenten Confessions are Friday, March 15, 2024, 1:00-6:00 pm and Saturday, March 16, 2024, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm. St. Stephen Cathedral Communal Reconciliation Service is Palm Sunday at 2:00 pm. Holy Thursday Liturgy is March 28, at 6:00 pm. Good Friday Liturgy is March 29, at 3:00 pm. Holy Saturday Easter Vigil is March 30, at 8:00 pm. Easter Sunday Liturgies are 6:00, 8:30, and 11:00 am.

C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Dirk Dooper

Dirk Dooper announced the Social Concerns has not met and was told by the chair it would not meet for several months. Fr. John Thomas reported calls for St. Vincent de Paul have been down but the amount of food giving out has been consistent. There was a Neighborhood Walk at Christmas.

D. Education and Formation/Spiritual Enrichment – LaWanna Brand

LaWanna Brand reported the Wednesday morning Lenten Companion group has about 18 people. There are 22 in RCIA, but not all are ready to enter the Church on Easter Sunday. Therefore, they will start year round RCIA this summer. There are 16 First Communicants preparing to receive Jesus on April 28, 2024. All Faith Formation Catechists are returning next year. The Lenten Art night went well. The newly formed Children’s Event Leadership Team met and gathered many ideas which Cheryl has begun to place on a working calendar. The next Holy Hour with a meal is planned for Sunday, April 21, 2024, at 4:00 pm. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 10-14, from 9:00-noon. The Catholic Parent series was a success. Two moms stepped up to form Pray and Play. It is designed for parents to gather in prayer and faith, with their children. Five Baptisms are scheduled for April and May. Eggs-travagant Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Easter Sunday after the 8:30 Mass.

E. Youth – Katie Pagan

Katie Pagan stated there are over 30 youth registered and placed in 5 small groups that meet twice a month. Karina helps lead a small group at OCHS. Our parish cohosted a successful middle school lock in with St. Pius. Karina has been working with OCMS’ Living Virtuously Organization (which is a Catholic version of FCA). We have 27 kids attending Youth 2000, with 5 adults. We are working with Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp to host a Gasper Night at the Cathedral. About 20 young Adults meet weekly in 3 small groups to do Book and Bible studies together. A very consistent group attends our Saturday morning Communion and Coffee event.

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

Fr. John Thomas reported some of the flower beds and shrubbery have been reworked and replaced.

G. Community and Family Enrichment – Crissy Stevenson (on behalf of John Wright)

Crissy reported the March Fish Fry and February Holy Hour were successful.

V. New Business

Fr. John Thomas stated there are many items on our main parish campus that are in need of many updates and improvements. He suggested, and the PPC approved to seek a Request for Proposal for a Facility Study. Dirk Dooper volunteered to seek bids for the RFP. Eddy McFarland has volunteered to coordinate the project.

VI. Unfinished Business

None

VII. Action Items

None

VIII. Pastor's Report

This is the Year of the Eucharistic Revival, so Fr. John Thomas is in the process of purchasing a stand for the Monstrance. Fr. John Thomas and four members of the staff and two young adults are attending the Eucharistic Congress in July. The staff is working on a display of Eucharistic Miracles in History for the weekend of Corpus Christi. Fr. John Thomas complimented Crissy Stevenson on the great job she does for our parish.

IX. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.

John Wright, LaWanna Brand, and Margie Ebelhar were wished a Happy January Birthday. Katie Pagan was wished a Happy February Birthday. Lauren Calhoun was wished a Happy March Birthday.

X. Closing Prayer – Fr. Shibu

Fr. Shibu led the PPC in a closing prayer.

XI. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled Thursday, April 11, 2024. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar