

**Minutes of the 506th Meeting
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council
Conference Room at the Parish Office**

November 9, 2023

Members Present: Fr. John Thomas, David Danhauer, Lauren Calhoun, LaWanna Brand, Dirk Dooper, Russell Vaughn, John Wright

Members Absent:

Parish Team: Fr. Shibu, Donna Murphy, Alex Reid

I. Call to Order

David Danhauer, Chair, opened the meeting at 6:03 pm.

II. Prayer

Donna Murphy led the PPC in prayer.

III. Approval of Minutes

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

IV. Liaison Reports – David Danhauer

A. Parish Finance Committee – Dirk Dooper

Dirk Dooper reported the audit went well and all is in order. The parish converted from the PDS software program to Quik Books and all balanced. Alex Reid explained the parish implemented the “Increased Offertory Program,” which is put out by the diocese, because collections were down.

B. Liturgy and Worship – Lauren Calhoun

Lauren Calhoun reported James Wells has been absent due to his baby’s birth and hospitalization in Cincinnati. James Warren and Steven Roby have stepped in to help with the music liturgy. Fr. John Thomas added the 4th Sunday of Advent is Christmas Eve. There will be no 11:00 am Mass that Sunday. David Danhauer inquired about the date of the next parish mission. Fr. John Thomas replied there is not one on the calendar and he would have staff look at it.

C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Fr. John Thomas

Fr. John Thomas stated St. Vincent DePaul has new leadership. The emergency food pantry now provides 2 ready to eat bags and 1 cooking bag once a month. The coat drive that was coordinated with the Block Party went well. There were many left over coats that went to the Help Office.

D. Education and Formation/Spiritual Enrichment – LaWanna Brand

LaWanna Brand presented a report from Rick Rhodes. Rick stated there are 14 in RCIA and they need sponsors. Nine people participated in the Neighborhood Walk. They passed out flyers through 8 streets. LaWanna Brand presented a report from Cheryl Powell, the Director of Children and Family Ministry. The Children’s Liturgy of the Word is going well with 9 to 24 children participating each week. First Sacraments is going well with 17 children in preparation. Cheryl and Karina have paired up to create Prayer Partners with the First Sacraments children and the youth preparing for Confirmation. Faith Formation has 18 children enrolled and they are enjoying the Finding God curriculum. As part of the Eucharistic Revival, Cheryl is partnering with Rick and Karina to have praise and worship adoration followed by a meal on a semi-regular basis. The first one was scheduled for November 5, 2023. Cheryl is planning an Advent Adventure which includes materials and activities for families with children to celebrate a Christ centered, meaningful Advent. A family movie night featuring the movie “The Star” is coming in December. It is based on the nativity story. They will have dinner, a craft, and a take home. In January she will plan Vacation Bible School. She is looking for two leaders...an energetic Emcee/ large group leader, and an Art Director. Please send her names.

E. Youth – Fr. John Thomas

Fr. John Thomas reported that Karina Romero has lots going on with our youth and young adults. It is all going well.

F. Buildings and Grounds – Russell Vaughn

Russell Vaughn stated that since Bob has been in Louisville with his hospitalized wife for the past month he has no report. Fr. John reported that Ann Futtrell has organized a group to clean the church while Bob has been away. Due to a worn out pump the Baptismal Font is being repaired. The tiles on the rectory and church have been repaired.

G. Community and Family Enrichment – Fr. John Thomas

Fr. John Thomas reported the Block Party was organized by several committees and provided service to the neighborhood community. The coats and chili were donated and distributed to the public. parishioners provided candy for Trunk or Treat. There was also face and pumpkin painting.

V. Unfinished Business

The PPC discussed a focus for the parish and a year long vision. Our focus: Encounter Christ, Community, Hospitality.

VI. Pastor's Report

Fr. John Thomas reported celebrating Mass in parishioners' homes is going well and there are many on the calendar. He announced Fr. Joe Mills Memorial Mass is November 20, 2023, at noon. He announced Katie Pagan has been appointed to the PPC and will attend the December meeting.

VII. Action Items

PPC members and staff need to communicate to all committees our "Encounter" focus. We need hospitality ministers for all December events that bring people from the larger community.

VIII. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.

David and Karen Danhauer were wished a Happy October Wedding Anniversary. Lauren and John Calhoun were wished a Happy November Wedding Anniversary. Fr. John Thomas and Russell Vaughn were wished Happy November Birthdays.

IX. Closing Prayer – Fr. John Thomas

Fr. Shibu led the PPC in a closing prayer.

X. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled Thursday, December 14, 2023. The PPC Christmas Party will be 5:30 pm Thursday, January 4, 2024. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar