

**Minutes of the 513th Meeting
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council
Conference Room at the Parish Office**

September 12, 2024

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

Members Absent: Margie Ebelhar, Donna Murphy

Parish Team: Fr. Shibu

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 August 8, 2024, meeting.

IV. Leadership Council and Liaison Positions

The Guidelines, Policies, and Best Practices for Parish Pastoral Councils was distributed.

Leadership Council and Liaison Positions were approved as follows:

Chairman – Dirk Dooper

Vice Chairman – Daniel Best

Secretary – Margie Ebelhar

Parish Finance Committee – David Danhauer

Liturgy and Worship – Suzanne Padgett

Social Concerns and Outreach – Joe Harris

Education and Formation/Spiritual Enrichment – Daniel Best

Youth – Katie Pagan

Buildings and Grounds – Russell Vaughn

Community and Family Enrichment – Gary Gant

V. Liaison Reports – David Danhauer

A. Parish Finance Committee – David Danhauer

David Danhauer reported the committee has not met since our last meeting

B. Liturgy and Worship – Fr. John Thomas

Fr. John Thomas stated that we have added First Friday Adoration, and the Saturday morning Adoration and confessions are well attended. Ross Leigh and Peyton Booth are reorganizing the server program with the hope of meeting once a month. Servers will also shift from albs to cassocks.

C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Fr. John Thomas

Fr. John Thomas stated that Deacon Richard Murphy had a meeting for the Social Concerns committee with about 9-10 people expressing interest in serving in this ministry. Our St. Vincent DePaul volunteers are staying busy despite less calls. A lot of it depends on the time of the month – the end of month usually sees an increase in food calls. September 28 and 29, St. Vincent DePaul will address the parish at each Mass and take up a collection. The Backpack Ministry recently met and they are beginning the weekly food bags.

D. Education and Formation/Spiritual Enrichment – Katie Pagan

Katie Pagan reported that Pray & Play has continued to meet throughout the summer. Another gathering will be scheduled soon. Faith Formation Registration is going well with 25 children registered. Sessions began September 8. Cheryl facilitated a First Sacraments Parent Meeting on August 27 and asked the

parents to reconnect with the Sacrament of Reconciliation if they have not done so, as children emulate their parents. Julie Best is continuing as our First Sacrament Catechist and she is awesome. Our curriculum is Blessed by Dynamic Catholic. We have 15 children preparing for First Sacraments. Children's Liturgy of the Word began September 8 and is off to a great start with 8 Catechists who serve this wonderful ministry. There will be a Family Bible Story Adventure on September 21 with 4 rotations of 4 different books and amazing storytellers. Fr. John is hosting a Family Cooking Night on September 27 where he will teach the children how to make pancakes. Cheryl Karina, and Rick are planning the first Serve Saturday for September 28. We will gather for Mass and then meet in the Community Center to prepare food for the homeless. We will then take the food out to the community. There will be a Praise & Worship Holy Hour with Reconciliation on October 13 at 4:00 pm with a meal to follow in the Community Center. David Danhauer also added that two more catechists joined OCIA this week. That Man is You begins next week.

E. Youth – Katie Pagan

Katie Pagan reported that Sister Elfie, a Salesian Sister, visited this week. She spent the evening with 10 of our young adult ladies answering questions, hearing about their discernment journey, and telling them the story of her vocation. We are now in the process of making this a regular event where our young adult women spend an evening with a sister and hear about their discernment story to help expose our young adult women to vocations. We are wanting to start one for young adult men as well, inviting priests, seminarians, and brothers to come speak to our young adult men. She also visited OCMS and OCHS and spoke to the students about vocations and how to hear where the Lord is calling you. Eighteen youth came for the first Youth Ministry open house at the end of August. We will continue to have open house events every other month. The Youth Ministry Discipleship Groups, previously called small groups, are starting back up this weekend. This weekend will be get to know you games and allowing the youth to get to know their groups. Signups for ODYC, which is this November in Hopkinsville for middle and high school youth, have begun. Karina visits OCMS and OCHS weekly for lunch visits and leading Virtue=Strength. We have a parish bunco night this Friday. Our Young Adults have a couple events coming up: Communion & Coffee (Mass and a bible study), trivia, pickleball, and small group meetings. Planning is under way for our Fall Block Party! We will once again have trunk or treat, a decorating competition, chili cookoff, hotdogs, and games for families.

F. Buildings and Grounds – Fr. John Thomas

Fr. John Thomas reported the Feasibility Study should be ready next week.

G. Community and Family Enrichment – Fr. John Thomas

Fr. John Thomas reported that the parish staff has been amazing in engaging the parish community.

VI. New Business

We seated the new council

VII. Unfinished Business

The facility study will be ready next week. We will meet October 3, 2024, to go over RBS's findings and recommendations.

VIII. Action Items

Moving forward on the Facility Study and Report

IX. Pastor's Report

Fr. Shibu announced that he will be returning home to Indian from October 21 – November 25, 2024. His 94-year-old mother is bedridden and beginning dialysis so please keep her and his family in your prayers. Fr. Shibu's passport has been renewed for the next 10 years (2034); however, his visa/green card is still in flux. Fr. Shibu's mission appeal had a good response – thank you to Bishop Medley and Fr. John Thomas for allowing the collection to take place. Fr. John Thomas commented on the number of international priests we have in the diocese and how it is a great sacrifice for them to be in the US away from their families. A list of

Parish Pastoral Council meeting dates was distributed: September 12, October 3, November 14, December 12, January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, and August 14.

X. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.

Happy September 5th birthday to David Danhauer.

XI. Closing Prayer

Fr. Shibu led the PPC in a closing prayer.

XII. Adjourn

The next meeting is Thursday, October 3, 2024. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Pagan