

**Minutes of the 500th Meeting  
Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council  
Conference Room at the Parish Office**

**December 1, 2022**

**Members Present:** Fr. John Thomas, Lauren Calhoun, LaWanna Brand, Brenda Clark, Dirk Dooper, Kelsey Rhodes, Russell Vaughn

**Members Absent:** David Danhauer, Samantha Taylor Kaai, John Wright

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

**I. Call to Order**

Lauren Calhoun, Vice-Chair, opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

**II. Prayer**

Fr. Shibu led the PPC in prayer.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved as written for the October 13, 2022, meeting.

**IV. Introduction of Fr. Thomas**

Fr. John Thomas welcomed and introduced Fr. Thomas. Fr. Thomas proceeded to tell us about his background.

**V. Parish Team Reports**

Alex Reid, Director of Stewardship & Ministries, reported on the Time, Talent, and Treasure Initiative. We have received 150 responses to TTT. Parishioners have already pledged \$586,416.00 for next year. A total of \$782,818.09 was pledged last year. He shared various demographics of the parish. Parishioners that are age 56 or older make up 37.59%. Parishioners that are age 26-35 make up 10.5%. Stewardship main focus is social media management and getting the word out about St. Stephen Cathedral. Approximately 15 new families have joined the parish in the last 6 months.

Donna Murphy, Pastoral Associate, reported on the phone calls that she is making to every household that are registered parishioners. The purpose is to touch base and see if we are meeting their needs. She has made 350 calls and has contacted 166 households. She stated most people expressed positive comments. The most negative comments were about the sound system.

**VI. Liaison Reports – Lauren Calhoun**

**A. Parish Finance Committee – Dirk Dooper**

Dirk Dooper reported the Finance Committee met on November 17, 2022. Contributions are \$47,000. below budget for the year. The parish has received a grant from the diocese for \$120,000. After a recommendation from the Finance Committee and PPC discussion Russell Vaughn made a motion for St. Stephen Cathedral to have a Capital Campaign for a restroom remodel that will cost approximately \$400,000. LaWanna Brand seconded the motion and it was passed by the members of the St. Stephen Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council. Money will be pulled from savings to begin the project.

**B. Liturgy and Worship – Lauren Calhoun**

Lauren Calhoun stated the Arts at the Cathedral Series featured women composers at the Concert Vespers on the Feast of St. Gertrude, November 16, 2022. Lessons & Carols performances will be Dec. 1 and 2, 2022. The Advent Holy Hour is Dec. 4, 2022, at 5:00 pm followed by dinner. There will be a Communal Reconciliation Service on Dec. 18, 2022, at 2:00 pm. The timpani need repairs before Christmas Midnight Mass.

**C. Social Concerns and Outreach – Samantha Taylor -Kaai**

No report.

**D. Education and Formation/Spiritual Enrichment – LaWanna Brand**

No report.

### **E. Youth – Kelsey Rhodes**

Kelsey Rhodes reported that Karina Romero is planning the Christmas Block Party that will be held on December 18, 2022, at 3:00 pm. Karina is hoping to contact different groups to see if they are interested in providing a meal for our youth and interacting with them. The Youth had a great time at ODYC and it was a powerful weekend. Karina and Samantha Taylor Kaai are working on 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion prep. Karina is working with a committee of 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys to plan a retreat trip to Gasper for the students involved in FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) at Owensboro Catholic Middle. Confirmation prep is underway with 13 students. There is currently a young adult Advent study with about 15 attending each session. The November 17, 2022, young adult cooking class was a success with 24 people at the class.

### **F. Buildings and Grounds – Russell Vaughn**

Russell Vaughn stated he is researching the caulking problem that Bob Stone reported around the windows in the church. He announced we still need parishioners to adopt spots. Russell shared he thought it would be a good idea to invite potential future PPC members to a meeting to see what it entails. He reported they have started the plaster and roof work.

### **G. Community and Family Enrichment – Brenda Clark**

Brenda Clark reported that on November 3, 2022, there was a reception for 40 people after the All Souls Day Vespers. She encouraged everyone to view the St. Stephen Chrismon tree at the Museum of Fine Arts. The St. Nicholas with Jesus Neighborhood Walk is December 11, 2022, at 2:00 pm. Brenda reported Audrey Bowlds is chair of the Giving Tree. Instead of donating money it is hoped that next year we will be able to return to taking tags off a tree in church.

### **H. Long Range Planning – John Wright**

No report.

## **VII. Unfinished Business**

None

## **VIII. Pastor's Report**

Fr. John Thomas announced the Christmas Mass Schedule is 4:00 and 11:00 pm on Christmas Eve and 9:00 am on Christmas Day. Blessed Sacrament will have a 7:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. On December 6, 2022, there will not be 7:00 am Mass. The Diocesan Eucharistic Revival Mass with Bishop Medley will be held at 8:00 am followed by Adoration and a Procession to the Convention Center.

## **IX. Action Items**

Lauren Calhoun encouraged members to attend our parish activities.

## **X. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordinations, etc.**

Fr. John Thomas, Kelsey Rhodes, and Russell Vaughn were wished Happy November Birthdays. Lauren and John Calhoun were wished a Happy November Wedding Anniversary. Donna Murphy and Fr. Shibu were wished Happy December Birthdays.

## **XI. Closing Prayer – Fr. Thomas**

Fr. Thomas led the PPC in a closing prayer.

## **XII. Adjourn**

The PPC Christmas Gathering is January 14, 2023, after the 4:30 pm Mass. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Ebelhar