

## **Saint Peter Pastoral Council Meeting September 10, 2020**

### 2019-2020 Mission and Goal:

The Mission of the Saint Peter Pastoral Council is to investigate, ponder, and propose practical conclusions concerning pastoral matters. We are prayerfully led by the Holy Spirit as we ponder and propose our conclusions with the wisdom and prudence of our Catholic faith.

The Goal of the Saint Peter Pastoral Council is to take the pulse of our parish by investigating all programs and ministries of our parish and, if necessary, recommend how we as a parish can improve on these programs by:

- 1) Administering a professional parish survey to determine wants, needs, and overall health of our parish; and,
- 2) Having all ministries brief the Pastoral Council on their programs, goals, and results, to determine if they need help in communication, publicity, funding, etc.

### **1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer**

Jack Rivetti called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M., and led the group in reciting an opening prayer.

### **2. Roll Call**

Present:

Fr. Tony Cutcher (Pastor)  
Kathy Albino  
Dan Foster  
Barb Keehn  
Josh Kinder  
Carl Pierolo  
Jack Rivetti (Chair)  
Nancy Skuya  
Roy Young (Vice-Chair)

Absent/Excused: Rose Ndifor

Guests:

Darren Backstrom (Business Manager and Parish Leadership Team)  
Joy Blaul (Worship Commission and Parish Leadership Team)  
Ken Kreitzer (Parishes of Old North Dayton (POND) and Parish Leadership Team)  
Andrew Larochele (Music Director and Parish Leadership Team)  
Marsha Loges (Note-taker)

### **3. This Amazing Parish – Presentation**

Andrew Larochele provided a presentation on *The Amazing Parish (AP)*. Key points included the following:

a. *The Amazing Parish* is a movement begun in 2014, by Patrick Lencioni, a corporate consultant specializing in Organizational Behavior. AP provides a model to follow in order to transform Parishes, building cultures which will allow progression from surviving to thriving.

b. In 2019, Archbishop Dennis Schnurr encouraged Parish participation, and he sponsored an AP Conference in Cincinnati, which over 100 Parishes attended. Fr. Tony Cutcher established a Region XII Parish Leadership Team (PLT), consisting of himself, Ron Albino, Darren Backstrom, Joy Blaul, Ken Kreitzer, Andrew Larochele, and Jackie Loffer. Together, they represented Dayton Region XII at the Conference.

c. That “core group” – the Pastor and the PLT - has been meeting weekly since then, learning more about AP as a system with an organizational focus, and using a pyramid of three Building Blocks: 1) Culture of Prayer; 2) Culture of Healthy Teamwork and Unity; and, 3) Culture of Active Discipleship. The Archbishop’s Vision is “One Pastor, one Parish”, and the PLT is introducing the AP tenets to the Staff and the Parish Councils and Commissions, with the hope of spreading that understanding throughout the Parish, to all Parishioners.

d. The PLT is responsible for leading an effort to evaluate where Region XII (its four Parishes) is now and what is necessary to go forward, and then to make action plans to spread those Cultures throughout the Region.

e. The AP objective is to move from mere organizational maintenance to developing mission communities for the Region. Using the Cultures of Prayer, and Healthy Teamwork and Unity, and working with decision-making filters of hospitality, quality Catholic formation, and missionary fielding, this will lead to a Culture of Discipleship – spreading actions to know and love God, and to serve as witnesses to others.

f. AP is a model to follow; it is not a Program, not Evangelization, and not a new Commission.

The Council then “practiced” applying the AP model, using the Sunday Gospel as a lesson, for reflection, challenge to become a better person, and discussion. The AP model is to be followed at each Council meeting, and at other meetings and gatherings throughout the Region.

#### **4. Council Business**

a. Council Membership. Jack Rivetti proposed that, given that no Council actions have occurred since the Coronavirus shutdown in March, and given that April elections were deferred, any typical changes to Council Membership associated with a change of year, including years of service of members, should be postponed.

MOTION was made, to continue with Council Membership and Terms, as is.

VOTE was taken and MOTION CARRIED; all in favor, none opposed.

b. Make-up of Regional Council. Considering the plans for a merger of all four Region XII Parishes into a single Parish within the next few years, Roy Young introduced a preliminary discussion of what the future Parish Council (One Council for the Region) might look like. Several key points were mentioned, including the following:

(1) Regional Council must be a manageable size; currently a total of 21 members serve on the two Councils.

✓ 12 members on POND Council, and 9 members on St. Peter Council.

(2) Pastor is allocated three appointees for Council Membership.

(3) Each Regional Council member must represent the entire Regional community, not just his/her “Home Parish” or “Campus”, or “Commission”.

(4) Long-term use and maintenance of all property, buildings, and campuses, the need, and the associated costs, must be considered.

(5) Regional Council could have equal representation for each current Parish (e.g., 4 from each "Campus").

(6) Regional Council could have population representation for each current Parish (i.e., based on % of overall Region XII population).

(7) There is a strong need for Parishioners who want to be active representatives.

(8) There is a strong need for young Parishioners.

(9) Currently all individual Parish finances are held separately; only after official merging will finances and responsibilities be transferred to the successor Parish.

Jack Rivetti said that these and other points will be considered, as the Region moves forward toward Parish mergers.

c. Open Items from Previous Council Meetings. Jack Rivetti proposed that discussion of all open Items (still open since last year, due to the Coronavirus pandemic), be postponed until the Council is at full strength. These items include:

(1) Parish Life Commission Director.

(2) Get to know the Ministries of each Commission; Social Gatherings.

(3) Parish Survey.

(4) Tech Support Volunteer Needed.

Because of the late time (past 8:30 P.M.), and with no objections, these items were TABLED without discussion.

d. Report Follow-up; any Questions to share with Joy. Because of the late time (past 8:30 P.M.), there was no discussion.

e. Parishioner Comments. A few Parishioner comments were mentioned:

(1) Several Parishioners have commented on how much they appreciate the new "awesome!" padded kneelers in Church, and they asked that their thanks be passed on to Fr. Tony.

(2) Some Parishioners have observed improvements being made throughout the St. Peter facilities, and they have provided donations to help defray those costs.

(3) Carl Pierolo cited several internet articles which he has read over the past few months, which cause concern about both current Catholics' understanding of, and future direction of, fundamental tenets of Catholic Faith, and foundational Catholic Church teachings and practices.

#### 4. Pastor Comments

a. Pastor items: Fr. Tony Cutcher deferred to the Business Manager to introduce items of importance.

b. Business Manager items: Darren Backstrom addressed key items of particular interest to the Council, including the following:

(1) Based on a Budget review of the past two months, the Offertory Collection is down by 20%, Parish School enrollment is down from 440 to 385 students, and Early Childhood Education enrollment also is down.

(2) The Parish has budget issues for the year, and careful quarter by quarter review is necessary. There is a 20-year backlog of deferred maintenance, and only limited, selective work – such as resealing of the school roof – can be undertaken. The cleaning contract already has been cut by \$100K.

(3) At the current pace of funding and required maintenance for the school, the situation over the next few years is questionable, and there is little guidance for long-range planning in the current environment.

(4) The St. Peter School Principal, Ron Albino, has been doing a wonderful job of handling the ongoing issues and maintaining day-to-day activities, amid the difficult challenges.

c. Other items.

(1) Much consideration has been given to options available, to safely meet on the Parish premises for Hospitality events. A monthly “Covid Coffee Klatch” will be held after Sunday Masses, outside of Church in the parking lot, under a Tent. The St. Peter Annual Christmas Bazaar is scheduled for November 14 and 15, in the Ries Center, Gym, and Cafeteria. The annual Mum Sale, which typically nets \$10K to \$15K for the school, will be held; dates and details to be determined.

(2) A concerted effort has been undertaken to improve communication to Parishioners. In addition to the weekly Bulletin, the Parish is contacting Parishioners via phone calls, mailing informational letters, and posting on Facebook.

#### 5. Closing Prayer

There being no further business, Roy Young offered a closing prayer.

#### 6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 P.M. The next meeting is **October 5, 2020.**

v/r, -mjl- :-)