

## **Saint Peter Pastoral Council Meeting October 05, 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 7:01 P.M., and led the group in reciting *The Amazing Parish Prayer*.

### **2. Roll Call**

Present:

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

Absent/Excused: Rose Ndifor

Guests:

Darren Backstrom (Business Manager and Parish Leadership Team)  
Nick Clune (Youth Ministry)  
Marsha Loges (Note-taker)

Jack Rivetti announced that Carl Pierolo submitted a letter of resignation from the Council.

### **3. This Amazing Parish**

Council members broke into small groups and discussed reflections on their personal Mass Journal entries.

### **4. Council Business**

a. Make-up of Regional Council. Jack Rivetti and Roy Young reported that they attended the Parishes of Old North Dayton (POND) September Council meeting, where plans for a merger of all four Region XII Parishes into "One Pastor, One Parish", with "One Regional Council" were discussed. The POND Council preference for make-up of the Regional Council is four persons per campus, plus three Pastor-appointed at-large members.

b. Considering this, and continuing discussion from our previous meeting, the following additional points were made:

(1) A more practical and manageable size for Regional Council membership is about 10 or fewer; perhaps one or two from each campus, plus three to six Pastor-appointed at-large members.

(2) The current situation - i.e., movement toward "One Pastor, One Parish" and a Regional Council - could be announced at Masses and then discussed at a joint meeting of both Councils, with interested Parishioners also in attendance.

(3) Consolidation to a Regional Council could evolve over time; i.e., as a campus closes, its campus representatives would no longer serve as Council members, while the remaining Council members would maintain their positions.

(4) Consolidation to a Regional Council could occur now, and when the Regional Council is formally established, the existing Councils would be dissolved, and elections would be held for Regional Council membership.

(5) It would be necessary to develop a new Regional Council Constitution, to replace the Constitutions of both current Councils.

(6) Some issues that present challenges are: the longstanding traditions and emotional feelings of Parishioners; the aging of Parish populations; the loss of Parishioners to other Parishes; the costs associated with maintaining under-used facilities; the prudent preservation and distribution of all religious articles, facilities, and properties; and, the consolidation and control of all funds.

c. Items Tabled from Last Meeting. Jack Rivetti reminded Council members of the items postponed from last year due to the pandemic. These tabled items included:

- Parish Life Commission Director;
- Get to Know the Ministries of Each Commission;
- Parish Survey; and,
- Tech Support Volunteer Needed.

He recommended that those items remain tabled until Parishioners are regularly attending Mass and fully participating in Parish activities again. With no objections, the first three items were again TABLED without discussion.

d. Discussion of the Tech Support Volunteer Needed included the following:

(1) A clear definition of the work involved (position description) must be determined.

(2) The need for the position is being driven by the establishment of an Archdiocese Information Technology (IT) platform and integrated data base, calling for unified and standardized formats and processes.

(3) Currently our Parish uses multiple stand-alone data bases, each focused on a specific Commission or Ministry function (e.g., eucharist, servers, bereavement, census, payroll, general ledger) and generating specific schedules and reports. These various data bases must be modified and consolidated, using the new Archdiocese platform and integrated system.

(4) The “volunteer” position may actually involve two or more volunteers, and requirements may range from extensive IT knowledge and skills, to data analysis skills, to data entry skills.

(5) Discussion of this Archdiocese IT integrated system is fairly new, having been communicated only over the past few weeks. Meetings will be forthcoming throughout the Archdiocese, introducing specifics regarding the new system, the strategy, and the implementation timeline. Incarnation Parish appears to be a leader in this effort, and a 3<sup>rd</sup>-party (contractor) company is involved, although the roles and responsibilities are unclear at this time.

e. Parishioner Comments. Several comments were mentioned:

(1) The Covid Coffee Klatch was appreciated, but not everyone was adhering to social distancing. The coffee was cold, and that is being rectified.

(2) A renewed emphasis on social distancing in church is needed (e.g., keep to center of aisle for Communion, remain seated after Mass until the Usher releases you). On the other hand, as a whole, Parishioners seem to understand and follow social distancing, and they are using good judgment in their interactions.

(3) Some Parishioners feel the “Sign of Peace” should be reinstated, encouraging acknowledgment of others with a wave or a nod.

(4) Despite the fact that the Life Chain was not announced at the end of Mass, there was a good turnout.

(5) A Parishioner acknowledged Fr. Tony’s homilies as “very impressive”.

**4. Pastor Comments**

a. Pastor items: Fr. Tony Cutcher spoke about the growing need for Parishioners to volunteer their time and talent, in order to avoid additional Parish costs for paid services. This need exists for various tasks throughout the Parish.

(1) Much work must be done, but with our limited funds and decreased income it is necessary to balance paid contract, paid staff, and volunteer resources, all working together to carry out Parish and School activities.

(2) In past years, much Parish work was accomplished by volunteers, but currently only a small percentage of Parishioners appear to be willing to volunteer their time and talent. Rather, there is a reliance on hiring paid contract workers or paid staff to do the work.

(3) The question is, what has happened to those volunteer resources? Have they all died? Is there not a new generation of volunteers who are willing to help the Parish?

(4) If specifically asked to help, perhaps more individuals would come forward, but they would require guidance.

(5) Someone would have to be “in charge”, assess and prioritize needs, solicit and schedule volunteers, provide materials and direction, and oversee the volunteer activities.

**b. Business Manager items:** Darren Backstrom presented the FY 2019 – 2020 Financial Report, and associated issues. Key points included the following:

(1) Copies of the St. Peter Parish FY 2019 – 2020 Financial Report were provided. The information is to be presented at the upcoming weekend Masses and, along with a video, will be posted on the Region XII web site.

(2) The Parish spent \$164,564.21 more than we took in resulting in a deficit for 2019-2020, and both St. Peter School enrollments and Early Childhood Education enrollments have declined significantly. Weekend Mass attendance continues to decline, from an average of 2600 in 2010, to 1800 in 2015, to 1300 in 2019, to only 500 now, during the Covid 19 pandemic.

(3) Our Parish must reduce costs and live within our means. We must assess and prioritize our needs, and determine how to support those needs.

(4) We must consider trends, recognize our decreasing Parish population and Church offerings, and look to our Parishioners to volunteer their services in order to maintain a vibrant Parish life.

(5) We must consider traditional Parish activities and decide whether they are fundraisers or socials, determine if the funds raised are sufficient to justify the work required, and selectively determine which to pursue and which to cancel.

(6) As our four Regional Parishes move toward becoming “One Pastor, One Parish”, our hope is to continue our efforts to progress toward becoming *The Amazing Parish*, and to realize spiritual renewal of all our Parishioners, by serving Our Lord.

## **5. Closing Prayer**

There being no further business, Jack Rivetti offered a closing prayer.

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M. The next meeting is **November 2, 2020**.

v/r, -mjl- :-)