

Saint Peter Pastoral Council Meeting November 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 areas such as communication, publicity, funding, and other relevant issues

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer

Jack Rivetti called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM, and led the group in reciting *The Amazing Parish Prayer*.

2. Roll Call

Present:

Fr. Tony Cutcher (Pastor)
Fr. Ambrose Dobrozsi (Parochial Vicar)
Kathy Albino
Dan Foster
Barb Keehn
Rose Ndifor
Jack Rivetti (Chair)
Nancy Skuya
Roy Young (Vice-Chair)

Absent/Excused: Josh Kinder

Guests:

Darren Backstrom (Business Manager and Parish Leadership Team)
Ken Kreitzer (Parishes of Old North Dayton (POND) and Parish Leadership Team)
Marsha Loges (Note-taker)

3. This Amazing Parish

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

4. Council Business

a. One Region Parish Council - Update. Jack Rivetti reported current thinking of the leadership of the Region XII parishes, regarding the make-up of the "One Regional Council". It would possibly consist of two members from each current campus (i.e., parish) plus three Pastor-appointed "at-large" members. Key points discussed included the following:

(1) The philosophy of "One Region, One Parish", requires a "culture change", with each member representing the entire Region XII, not an individual "campus", and the single Parish would be responsible for maintaining the entire Region.

(2) Currently the St. Peter Pastoral Council consists of eight members, but when the transition occurs the Region XII Council membership would be reduced to two St. Peter campus members. Jack said that each current member should consider whether or not he or she is willing

to serve as the St. Peter campus member, representing the entire Region XII. He requested that each member provide direct feedback to him prior to the next Council meeting.

(3) Serving on the Region XII Parish Council with equal membership from each campus could prove to be difficult, when considering each current parish's percent of total Region XII population and percent of total Region XII financial offerings. However, the Pastoral Council's focus is limited to spiritual and pastoral matters and the growth of the congregation, while the Financial Commission considers financial matters.

(5) Because parish history and traditions are very strong, objectively representing the entire Region XII while disregarding personal and emotional bonds to a particular campus (former Parish) will be difficult.

(6) The parishes of Old North Dayton (POND) Council members have struggled with this issue. However, they have shown that it can be done. They continually remind one another of the need to set aside any personal "parochial views" or "campus mentality" and consider matters from an overall perspective, representing all parishes.

(7) Potential members of the new Region XII Parish Council must be willing to learn what is important at each campus, and consider the history and traditions of each current POND Parish and St. Peter Parish. Open Houses at all churches, sharing of historical and cultural narratives, communicating, honoring customs and traditions, and preserving and reusing particular religious artifacts, all should be beneficial in assisting with the transition to a single Region XII Parish.

(8) It is not yet known when the actual transition to the new single Region XII Parish will occur. It could be within two to five years. Sooner is better.

b. Future Schedule for Parish Council Meetings. Jack Rivetti said that the next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2020. Beginning in January 2021, all Parish Council Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month (instead of the first Monday).

c. Parishioner Comments. Several comments were mentioned, including the following:

(1) There is a need to address the condition of the resurfaced parking lot.

(2) The parish should consider the relative good to be achieved in making charitable donations to the Christmas Giving Tree versus making donations to purchase poinsettia plants for the Altar.

(3) Closing the back gate of the parking lot will discourage speedy drivers from cutting through the property.

(4) The Our Lady of the Rosary Fish Fry will be held on Friday, November 13. There will be Covid-19 restrictions, social distancing, and limited attendance.

(5) The St. Peter Christmas Bazaar is Saturday and Sunday, November 14 and 15. There will be Covid-19 restrictions, social distancing, and limited attendance.

5. Pastor Comments

a. Pastor items: Fr. Tony Cutcher reported the Mass schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Peter churches. The only change from last year is the elimination of the 9 AM Christmas Day Mass at St. Peter. There will be social distancing and limited attendance restrictions at all Masses. Any overflow from the church will be accommodated in satellite locations in Fehrenbach Hall and in the school gymnasium.

b. Business Manager items: Darren Backstrom presented the St. Peter Parish and St. Peter School FY 2020-21 First Quarter (Jul – Sep 2020) Financial Report. Copies of the original and revised financial reports were provided. Key points included the following:

(1) The original School budget was prepared last May, based on anticipated registration of 440 students. However, due to the Coronavirus, the actual number of students attending in September dropped to 390. The first quarter school expenses remained the same, creating a first quarter deficit of \$124,015. The budget included \$247,657 of Parish support derived from US Government Paycheck Protection Plan funds.

(2) As a result, we are actually more than \$200K short on budgeted tuition income, and we need to find ways to reduce both school and parish expenses, in order to achieve at least a 20% budget cut. This will impact parish staffing and increase reliance on volunteer staff, and will impact timely delivery of products and services.

(3) Since March of this year, collections of Church Offerings from parishioners are down 25%. This decline in offerings is due not only to Covid-19 reduced Mass attendance, but to other factors, as well. Currently, parish contributions come from only about 45% of our Parish members, and 80% of that offertory income is from parishioners aged 65 and older.

(4) Those other factors must be explored, considering trends over past years, to determine what has driven Parish income downward, and, more importantly, what has changed parishioners' relationships with their Church. Love for Christ and for the Church generates giving. In general, Catholics do partake in prayer and spirituality; they are grateful to God for all they have been given and they want to give back, so they support their Church. But many have somehow lost their love for the Church as an essential part of their family life, and as the center of their community.

(5) Unfortunately, this reality is not unique to our parish. It has been found to be prevalent throughout Catholic communities. The Cincinnati Archdiocese has undertaken a Pastoral Planning Process, using real parish data. The objectives are to focus on trends in changing attitudes and to identify fundamental, systemic causes for this widespread disinterest in maintaining a close relationship with the Church, and then to determine local parish solutions to combat and resolve the situation. The initial phase of this long-term effort will begin during the next two weeks.

6. Closing Prayer

There being no further business, Kathy Albino offered a closing prayer.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM. The next meeting is **December 10, 2020**.

v/r, -mjl- :-)