

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

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer

Jack Rivetti called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM, and led the group in reciting *The Amazing Parish Prayer*.

2. Roll Call

Present:

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

Absent/Excused:

Kathy Albino
Josh Kinder
Nancy Skuya

Guests:

Darren Backstrom (Business Manager and Parish Leadership Team)
Jim Ballweg (Finance Commission)
Nick Clune (Athletics Commission/Youth Ministry)
Ken Kreitzer (Parishes of Old North Dayton (POND) and Parish Leadership Team)
Marsha Loges (Note-taker)
Cindy Mohn (Finance Commission)

3. This Amazing Parish

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

4. Council Business

a. Business Manager Presentation. Darren Backstrom provided a briefing on the State of Region XII. This presentation, using real parish data, was prepared as part of the Cincinnati Archdiocese Pastoral Planning Process. The objectives of the process are to focus on trends in changing attitudes and to identify fundamental, systemic causes for widespread disinterest in maintaining a close relationship with the Church, and then to determine local parish solutions to combat and resolve the situation. The presentation included data from over the last several years regarding the following:

(1) Sacramental Life (baptisms, first communions, confirmations, marriages, ordinations, and funerals). Darren noted the continued decline in participation in these sacraments, over the years.

(2) Offertory Collections (families and contributions). Darren noted the continued decline in financial support for the parish, leading to the need for significant reductions in cleaning and maintenance support, termination of contracts, and reduced staffing.

(3) Parish Ministries (Religious Education, Parochial School, New Parishioners, Youth Programs, and Food Pantry). Darren noted the continued decline in each of these key areas.

(4) Priests and Deacons. Darren listed various elements of an active Catholic Parish, and the fundamental roles of the parish in developing and advancing the religious life of the parishioners.

(5) Continued Dialogue for an Active Parish. Darren posed several questions regarding what constitutes an active, thriving parish which seeks growth in Prayer, Faith, and Fellowship. “*Why do I belong? How can I participate? How can I grow?*” He urged a continued consideration of the trends of our parish, what our future might be if changes are not made, and what can be done to promote more active commitment and enthusiasm for parish life.

Pastoral Council members present did not provide specific responses to those key questions, but future continued reflection is anticipated, seeking real answers to what actions should be taken to reawaken parishioners. It also was pointed out that the Parish Survey, which was originally planned for March of this year but which is on hold due to the Coronavirus, may prove useful in providing insights about needs and expectations of parishioners. In addition, ongoing activities associated with The Amazing Parish may contribute to formulation of plans to promote more participation in parish life.

b. Parishioner Comments. It was noted that several parishioners seem happier, now that Greeters have returned, the Mass is preceded by the welcoming of fellow parishioners, and the Sign of Peace has been reintroduced.

5. Pastor Comments

Fr. Tony Cutcher reported the following:

(1) Confessions will be held at St. Peter Church on Wednesday, December 16, beginning at 7 PM; six priests will be available to hear Confessions.

(2) The Beacons of Light insert in the December 6 Bulletin provides a summary of the Cincinnati Archdiocese Pastoral Planning Process, which is the reason for the State of Region XII presentation addressed above. The article acknowledges the aging of religious priests, and the urgent need to organize parish life more effectively for the future. It explains that each of us “... *must be rooted in a strong, vital parish...that forms us as disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ...*”, and it announces the reforming of “... *parishes that are alive in faith, filled with vitality... ready to radiate Christ...*”.

(3) Fr. Tony said that during the next few years the archdiocese will be redrawing parish, region, and deanery boundaries, and he urged each of us to review the Beacons of Light

article, and resolve to give serious consideration to what can be done to revitalize our own parish life.

6. Closing Prayer

There being no further business, Dan Foster offered a closing prayer.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM. The next meeting is **Tuesday, January 5, 2021.**

v/r, -mjl- :-)