

Saint Peter Pastoral Council Meeting January 5, 2021

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 7:04 PM, and led the group in reciting *The Amazing Parish Prayer*.

2. Roll Call

Present:

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

Absent/Excused:

Fr. Ambrose Dobrozsi (Parochial Vicar)
Kathy Albino
Rose Ndifor

Guests:

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. Dan Foster. Dan announced that he has submitted his resignation from the Council, effective immediately. He feels that the needs of the position are not a good fit for his personal talents and strengths, and he is seeking an alternative way to serve the Parish community. Jack Rivetti thanked Dan for his service to the Parish.

b. Pastoral Council Schedule. Jack Rivetti reminded members that all Parish Council Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month (instead of the first Monday). per agreement at the November 2020 Council meeting. The meeting schedule will be posted in the Parish Bulletin each month.

c. Sunday Socializing. Jack Rivetti said that Joy Blaul, Pastoral Associate, has arranged for socializing among parishioners in the Ries Center (instead of in Fehrenbach Hall) following all Masses on Sunday, January 10. Coffee and donuts will be served. Jack passed out a guide

entitled *Hospitality Expectations*, which outlines an *Invite, Invest, Repeat* approach to socializing, and Council members were asked to sign up for a time when they will attend.

d. One Region Parish Council Updates. Jack Rivetti said that he will be meeting this week with Darren Backstrom, Business Manager, and Ken Kreitzer, Parishes of Old North Dayton (POND) Council Chair, to continue discussions about the merger of all Region XII parishes into a single parish. Particular points mentioned included the following:

(1) The makeup of the combined Pastoral Council, its specific roles and responsibilities, number of Pastor appointments, number of elected representatives, method of nomination and election of members, and planned timeline of the merger, all remain to be determined.

(2) Specific details are not known at this time, although it is clear that the number of Pastoral Council members will likely be reduced, and so some current members may opt to resign their seats.

(3) As plans and guidelines are formulated, the Constitution and By-Laws of both the St. Peter Pastoral Council and the Parishes of Old North Dayton (POND) Council will be reviewed, combined, and rewritten.

(4) The parishes have undergone several significant programs and changes over the past many months. These include the closing of parishes (St. Stephen and St. Adalbert), the identification of various St. Peter Parish Ministries, the planned St. Peter Parish Survey, and the introduction of *The Amazing Parish* and the *Beacon of Light* programs, as well as the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on parish activities and on the celebration of the Liturgy. These all have impacted the relationships of the parishes and of the parishioners.

(5) Separate from the St. Peter Pastoral Council meetings, the POND Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month.

e. Parishioner Comments. It was noted that St. Peter Church looked beautiful during the Christmas liturgical celebrations. In addition, a parishioner sent a special Thank You card.

5. Pastor Comments

Fr. Tony Cutcher reported the following:

(1) Andrew Larochelle, the St. Peter Music Director, who has a Master's degree in Theology, also performs in a much broader spiritual leadership role for the Parish. He serves in many liturgical ministries and is working along with Joy Blaul in fulfilling some of the Pastoral Associate responsibilities.

(2) While Parish collections have improved, contributions are still down significantly, requiring continued cost-cutting actions. In addition to the maintenance staff already being reduced from six to three, beginning this month all parish staff hours are reduced from eight to six hours per day, resulting in a 25% pay cut for all.

(3) The St. Peter Parish mid-year Financial Report is currently being prepared, and Fr. Tony plans to present to the parish a report on the financial status by the end of this month. He will address the current financial posture and implications regarding the parish and the parish school, for the remainder of this year and for next year.

(4) The Archdiocese of Cincinnati is continuing its efforts on two separate but related programs – *The Amazing Parish (TAP)* and *Beacons of Light (BoL)*. (See summary of *TAP* in St. Peter Pastoral Council Meeting - Sep. 10, 2020 minutes. See summary of *BoL* in St. Peter Pastoral Council Meeting - Dec. 10, 2020 minutes).

- At St. Peter Parish, introduction of *TAP* has proceeded through the Parish Leadership Team (PLT), the Staff, and several Ministries. Soon the first element, developing a Culture of Prayer, will be introduced to all parishioners. Next week the PLTs of all 125 Archdiocese parishes will begin to focus on the second element, developing a Culture of Discipleship.
- The Archdiocese, assisted by two consulting firms, is conducting *BoL* analysis, using data previously submitted by all parishes in their *State of Region* reports. (See summary of *State of Region XII* report in St. Peter Pastoral Council Meeting - Dec. 10, 2020 minutes). The focus is on assessment of both the material and the spiritual viability of individual parishes. This is accomplished through analysis of pastoral activities reported (such as sacramental life and participation in ministries), as well as consideration of shortage of personnel and excess property information. An Initial report of assessment findings is expected by early February.

(5) January is Pro-Life Month, and the St. Peter Parish Respect Life Group is developing plans for parish activities.

- Crosses will again be placed throughout the lawn, in front of St. Peter Church.
- The Archdiocese will hold a Pro-Life Rosary & Holy Hour event on Thursday, January 28, 7 - 8:30 PM, at the St. Peter in Chains Cathedral Basilica in Cincinnati.
- St. Peter Parish is planning a coordinated Rosary & Holy Hour to take place locally at the same time, in concert with the Archdiocese celebration.
- The Archdiocese will again participate in the March for Life Rally in Washington, D.C., on Friday, January 29. St. Anthony Parish in Dayton will sponsor a bus for the trip, for participation in person. The event will be scaled back significantly due to the pandemic, with live streaming of a Virtual Youth Rally and Mass for Life available on-line, and live coverage on EWTN.

(6) The St. Peter Parish Hospitality Committee is reinstating Sunday Socializing among parishioners following all Masses, once a month. It will feature coffee and donuts as well as adult and child activities, in the Ries Center. Planning may also include periodic “homemade” egg or pancake breakfasts, courtesy of various parish organizations.

(7) The Catholic Hispanic Ministry El Puente (The Bridge) Learning Center has moved from its previous location at St. Mary Church in East Dayton, and relocated to the Region XII Our Lady of the Rosary campus. El Puente provides an after-school tutoring program and computer lab for Hispanic students, as well as training in English as a Second Language (ESL) for school children, with an ESL adult track.

6. Closing Prayer

There being no further business, Barb Keehn offered a closing prayer.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM. The next meeting is **Tuesday, February 2, 2021.**

v/r, -mjl- :-)