

Saint Peter Pastoral Council Meeting March 2, 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 7:02 PM, and led the group in reciting *The Amazing Parish Prayer*.

2. This Amazing Parish

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

3. Roll Call

Present:

Fr. John Tonkin (Parochial Administrator)
Fr. Ambrose Dobrozsi (Parochial Vicar)
Barb Keehn
Josh Kinder
Rose Ndifor
Jack Rivetti (Chair)
Nancy Skuya
Roy Young (Vice-Chair)

Absent/Excused:

Kathy Albino

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)

4. Council Business

a. One Region Pastoral Council Updates. Jack Rivetti reported that he, Darren Backstrom, and Ken Kreitzer have been continuing discussions about the merger of all Region XII parishes into a single Regional Pastoral Council. Particular points included the following:

(1) The makeup of the combined Regional Pastoral Council will be three members from St. Peter Council, three members from the POND Council, plus up to three at-large members appointed by the Pastor.

(2) Several current St. Peter Pastoral Council members have indicated willingness to continue to serve, and so a vote will be taken during this meeting to determine the three individuals to be named to the Regional Pastoral Council.

(3) The POND Pastoral Council will meet next Tuesday (March 9) and will vote on their three Regional Pastoral Council members at that time.

(4) The Constitution and By-Laws of both the St. Peter Pastoral Council and the POND Council will be reviewed, combined, and rewritten, for the Regional Pastoral Council.

(5) Region XII adoption of a single Regional Pastoral Council will occur immediately.

b. One Region Pastoral Council Vote. All voting members cast votes for the Regional Pastoral Council membership. As a result, Josh Kinder, Roy Young, and Jack Rivetti were selected. Jack Rivetti expressed his thanks to all outgoing Council members for their dedicated service.

c. Regional Council Next Meeting. The Region XII Regional Pastoral Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 13, 7 PM, at the St. Peter Parish Ries Center. Each scheduled Council meeting will be published in the Bulletin, and all parishioners are welcome to attend.

d. Parishioner Comments. There were a few comments, as follows:

(1) Fr. Ambrose Dobrozsi reported that many parishioners have responded to the Holy Week Missions Campaign and will participate in door-to-door visits to parishioners' homes, on Saturdays at 9 AM on March 13 and 20. They will be providing information and inviting parishioners to take part in Holy Week and Easter Sunday services. Parish family members were identified based on records over the past five years. This effort is intended to foster synergy among all parishes in Region XII.

(2) Fr. Ambrose said that he will be presenting a series of Lenten Faith Formation talks on the subject of *How to Pray the Mass*, on Sundays at 4 PM on March 7, 14, and 21. The presentations also will be live-streamed, at DaytonXII.org.

(3) Jack Rivetti reported that since the beginning of Lent and no doubt aided by the availability of the Covid-19 vaccine, attendance at St. Peter weekend masses has grown, and much positive feedback has been received.

(4) Rose Ndifor inquired if there is an active St. Peter Parish group focusing on the needs and well-being of elderly parishioners. The Parish does have an Outreach Ministry for the Homebound and Sick, but currently it is limited in its work due to Covid-19 restrictions. More information is available on the Region XII web site, at the Ministries Tab.

(5) Many parishioners have been asking for information about Fr. Tony Cutcher.

- Allegations have been made and investigations have been conducted, but very little information has been made available to the public, other than that Fr. Tony has submitted his resignation as Pastor of Pastoral Region XII. Fr. John said that, because of privacy issues, there are limitations on what information can be reported. Further, the Archdiocese has strict protocols regarding what information is shared with the Parish priests, and what may be revealed to the Parish community. More specifics will be shared with parishioners when permission is given to do so.

- It was noted that lack of factual information creates a void, which often is filled with rumors and speculation, which can be harmful to reputations. However, Darren Backstrom and Fr. Ambrose Dobrozsi reminded us that gossip is a sin, and that as Christians we must remain respectful of all individuals, pray for them, and refrain from judging or speaking badly about them.

5. Pastor Comments

a. Pastoral Administrator Items.

Fr. John Tonkin introduced himself and said that he has been assigned as the Region XII Parochial Administrator through June 30. He reported that the Archdiocese is currently deliberating on who should serve as the new Region XII Pastor, and that a name could be announced within the next two weeks or so. Fr. John briefly explained the process that is used by the Priest Personnel Board. Following a two-to-three-week window for applications and nominations, the Board meets to consider names and make their recommendations, which then must be considered by the Archbishop. The Board will meet on March 10, a decision could be made as early as March 11, candidates will then be informed by telephone, and the new Pastor possibly could be announced by the following weekend.

b. Business Manager items.

Darren Backstrom reported the following:

- (1) Darren briefly discussed the status of the two Archdiocese of Cincinnati programs, *The Amazing Parish (TAP)* and *Beacons of Light (BoL)*.
 - (See summaries of *TAP* in St. Peter Pastoral Council Meeting minutes - Sep. 10, 2020 and Jan. 5, 2021. See summaries of *BoL* in St. Peter Pastoral Council Meeting minutes - Dec. 10, 2020 and Jan. 5, 2021. Also see [Beacons of Light - Archdiocese of Cincinnati \(catholicoc.org\)](https://www.catholicoc.org/)).
 - *The Amazing Parish* program has been on the back burner for several months, and has not been aggressively introduced to parishioners, given the reduction in parish activities due to the Coronavirus pandemic.
 - The *Beacons of Light* program focuses on reducing regions, closing and selling properties, as well as analyzing parish data. The data analysis is continuing through April, leading to redrawing Region lines and determining new priest assignments to parishes within the regions.
- (2) The St. Peter School faculty, staff, and students all are grieving the loss of Principal Ron Albino. They have been provided grief counseling following his death, a Staff Retreat has been held, and they are coping, doing well, and moving forward.
- (3) Mrs. Kelly Kadel is serving as Interim Principal of St. Peter School, for the remainder of the current school year. Efforts are underway at the Archdiocesan level, to select and hire a new Principal for the next school year (2021-22). A committee will identify reliable candidates by reviewing applications, references, and qualifications, and conducting interviews. There are currently two primary candidates who meet or exceed all necessary qualifications, and interviews are ongoing. Once a selection is made, that candidate's name will be forwarded for consideration and approval. The goal is to have approval and name the new Principal by May 1.

(4) The St. Peter School current budget was developed based on anticipation of 435 students attending. However, due to a decrease of 42 students who did not enroll because of the Coronavirus pandemic, actual enrollment dropped to only 393, with an associated significant reduction in tuition revenue. This has driven numerous adjustments in staffing and in school expenditures, loss of some efficiencies, and related adjustments to both school and parish budgets. Further changes were driven by Government funding in the form of two Payroll Protection Program loans and grants. Consideration of these and various other financial adjustments have been managed for this year but will have an impact on planning and budgeting for next year.

(5) Josh Kinder suggested that there is a need for an informational EdChoice Town Hall, to provide parents with helpful clarification regarding the EdChoice Scholarship Program, its availability and eligibility requirements, designated schools, and the application process.

(6) Plumbing leaks have occurred in the school, requiring prompt attention to minimize further damage and to maintain facilities. Due to the age of the facility, additional problems are anticipated. In addition, a maintenance staff member has left to take another job, and a new grounds crew member has been hired.

(7) Parish Offertory contributions are increasing, as more parishioners attend weekend Mass services.

(8) The final sale of the St. Stephen Parish property is anticipated on March 12, with the proceeds from the sale going to Our Lady of the Rosary Parish.

(9) The final Mass at St. Adalbert Parish is scheduled for May 1, and Fr. John Tonkin will officiate. *Note: This information is not to be released until after an official letter has been sent to all St. Adalbert parishioners informing them of the date.*

6. Closing Prayer

There being no further business, Nancy Skuya offered a closing prayer.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM. The next meeting is **Tuesday, April 13**, at 7 PM.

v/r, -mjl- :-)