

## **SS Peter and Paul, Hamburg - Pastoral Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting held September 11, 2023**

**Attendees:** Rev. Ted, Deacon Carl Koester, Deacon Dennis Conroy, Eileen Lyon, Lori Baker, Leslie Brooks, Joe Burke, Robert Couth, Sharon Keller, Warren Ristine, Katherine Nicaise-Steffen, Irene Stranz, Kevin Morgan

**Excused:** Rev. Jim Cuipek, Deacon Robb Ciezki, Dick Blake, Adam Ciccarella, Mary Flanagan, Holly Stuart, Racael Rizzo, Karin Dusza, Lauren (Ren) Gibson, Amanda Przyklek, Judy Shelley, Jenifer Golinski

**Unexcused:** None

The meeting was held in the Parish Meeting Room and was called to order by President Warren Ristine at 7:04 PM. Opening prayer by Warren Ristine. The mission statement was read by all.

Motion to approve the June 2023 meeting minutes by Kevin Morgan and second by Kathy Nicaise-Steffen unanimously approved.

#### **Announcements**

Warren welcomed all to the Pastoral Council. He announced that Cari Fultz had resigned from the Pastoral Council. He asked if anyone knew a candidate to fill in the slot to finish the two-year term or thought of someone to please contact Warren.

Opening Prayer for the first three months is covered by the officers. Irene will send a Sign-up Genius link to the Council so individuals can sign up to lead the prayer from December to June. Irene explained that the prayer can be a formal prayer or a prayer written by the individual.

Pastoral Council Subcommittees sheets explaining the committees and a list of who were on the committee last year for members to reference. All were encouraged by Warren either to sign up for the same committee as last year or have the option to sign up for a different group. The idea of starting sign-up early is to start the projects early.

Warren announced that the Pastoral Council will have a blessing at the 4 PM Mass on October 7 followed by an ice-cream social. The theme of the ice cream social is to provide an opportunity for our Parishioners to meet and greet the Pastor of our Family Father Jim Cuipek. Irene will send a Sign-Up Genius link to sign up for various roles such as set up/clean up and bringing in food items for the social.

Father Ted announced that on the first Friday of the month, there will be Adoration after the 9:00 Mass, 9-12. There is also Adoration and Benediction after the Thursday 9:00 Mass till about 3 PM. Father Ted expressed the desire on Thursday since it is a school Mass to encourage the children to learn and

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participate in the Adoration and Benediction process in the Church. A question was raised if no one shows up and one needs to leave at Adoration, that the procedure of a vail be placed over the Monstrance? Father Ted explained that he will have guidelines for the procedure so people know what the procedure is if there is no replacement in sight.

Father Ted said that there is a need to help the Pre-Cana group. The current lead Dave and Leslie Jones are moving to Cincinnati. Drew and Erin McNichol may be taking the lead role. Father Ted expressed gratitude to the Jones for doing a wonderful job at SSPP as our Pre-Cana leads and will be greatly missed. An attempt was made to possibly join the group with Saint Bernadette's Pre Cana group but the request was denied unwilling to accommodate a joint meeting.

Communion Service Per Father Sean Fleming director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Buffalo directive; communion services should only be done in an emergency. Not as a planned service. Scheduled Communion services at SSPP will no longer take place.

#### **Old Business**

As reported by Irene, the various Family Pillars are meeting. She has requested that when minutes are developed they are forwarded to her so they can be forwarded to the other pillar reps from SSPP. This ensures communication among the Pillars. The Administration Pillar is prioritizing the priorities of the tasks that they need to accomplish. The Liturgy Pillar has met with the daily Mass Schedule developed. Their next task will be the weekend Mass schedule to be implemented before Advent. The Liturgy Pillar will be meeting on September 21. The final decisions of the Mass schedules are directed by the Pastor and Priests. The Spiritual Pillar focuses on the Life of the Eucharist for the Family. Judy Shelley has attended the training and other pillar members are looking at other training dates to attend. No minutes from the other Pillars but they are meeting. Leslie voiced help is needed for the Liturgy Pillar. Irene offered to help if needed to pass on when meeting. Irene announced that Dick Blake had to step down from the Family Administration Pillar for SSPP and Warren Ristine will be filling in for SSPP.

Father Ted spoke of no Priest error at SSPP was a mistake in logistics. Eileen Lyon suggested that possible to set up a group text reminder from the secretary of the Mass coverage so the Priests know which Mass and Church they are attending as well as who covering. Perhaps the use of technology to link their schedules to enhance better communication and prevent future no Priest coverage at Mass.

Warren raised the concern about how we diminish the negativism among our Priests in the Family; through an article in the newspaper and a letter from Father Joe in the bulletin. Other members of the Council also raised the same issue.

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Father Ted explained that when a new Priest enters the Priesthood they must live with a Pastor for guidance and direction in training for 10 years. The new priest will reside at Nativity for this reason.

Warren encouraged all to look at the Family Trend data presentation that Father Bryan presented at SSPP. The Presentation is located on our website for viewing.

Warren asked Where are we with Formed? Deacon Carl stated he spoke with Don and was working still on the pricing. Deacon Carl requested the need again stating that it offers professional videos that he has not seen elsewhere for free. Currently the subscription till October. Eileen stated she would approach Dick and the Financial team to speak with Don and will follow up findings with Warren. The current cost could be as much as \$2400 for the Parish.

Deacon Carl stated that the database provider determines the price. Deacon Carl expressed that today people like the online approach to attracting the techno-savvy and younger population.

Sharon attended Alpha and stated that it was a nice meeting. However, can not commit to more meetings while working on the Pillar and work. Very time-constrained.

Rob Couth states he was approached about Alpha and called Sr. Louise. However, she was not contacting him and was not sure who was. He stated that they spoke in detail and he shared his prior involvement in Alpha. Sr Louise invited Rob to the next meeting but he wanted to make sure it was okay with Council to attend. The council was okay with him attending.

Eillen expressed the lack of clear direction from the Diocese on what the priority; Alpha or Life in the Eucharist for the Family/ Parish to focus on. The Diocese seems to be pushing both programs while the Pillars in the Family are trying to meet their tasks. Joe Burke spoke that the focus of the Spiritual Pillar is Life in the Eucharist as the Family goal. Eileen asked what is our "Parish's needs" regarding Life in the Eucharist mandate from the Diocese.

Father Ted expressed that the Church needs healing now and perhaps we should promote Life in the Eucharist

Eileen suggested perhaps the Discipleship SubCommittee should look at the Pros and Cons of Life in the Eucharist versus Alpha

#### **New Business**

New Daily Mass schedule in effect 9-5-2023 Warren expressed. Father Ted explained seems to be running well so far.

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Irene made a motion to amend the bylaws to reflect our current practice when there are minimum candidates for the selection process and the priest reads the name at Mass. Also when a member of Council is asked to continue the member should be in good standing to continue. At the next meeting, a vote to approve the motion will take place.

#### **Sub Committee Updates**

Fellowship- Leslie reported the June outdoor Mass at the Moose was a success. Well attended and received positively by the Parishioners.

Discipleship- Sharon reports 8 new families. Welcome bags will be delivered next week to them. The area the new Parishioners are coming from is large.

Ministry Support- After the Ministry Fair follow-up was done to make sure interested parties were contacted by the various ministries.

Procedures and Facilities- Warren reported no report at this time

#### **Reports**

Warren commented on the numbers the Outreach is serving. Kevin Morgan explained that Buffalo is sending clients outside of the city limits due to that the public housing shelters are at full capacity. It is causing a problem in Hamburg, currently, families and individuals are being housed in 4 hotels. SVDP has been dropping off food, clothing, and household items every week and is depleting the resources of the Outreach Center.

Leslie reported that the school has most teacher positions filled except for the technology teacher which they are still looking at.

#### **For The Good of the Group**

Warren gave homework to the Council to think of 3 challenges and 3 positives we have in our Parish and email the responses to him. He will develop a list and share it at the next meeting.

Warren expressed the divide between the school and the Parish. The children's liturgy helps more children at Mass. Many Parishioners are active at the school, however, not active in the Church. The question was raised. How do we bridge it better? Leslie voiced on a positive note the Parish supports the school greatly. Of the 100 apples on the apple tree, only 5 were left. Of those 5, a Parishioner called and filled the missing apples.

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A complaint was brought to Warren by a parishioner that the Sunday 7:30 mass now with the singing is getting too long and he needs to get to his farm. Could this be addressed?

Irene addressed that the kitchen has been an issue with multiple issues. Lynne Forsburg spearheaded a group of Parishioners that cleaned and organized the kitchen. A letter was received by Margaret Alexander that the Council be made aware of the situation. The cooler has a sign broken but has been broken for over 6 months. Warren will follow up with maintenance to see where we are at getting repaired or replaced. The next issue is that the kitchen was so dirty that dropping was found and we would not have passed inspection. Multiple groups use the kitchen, but the paperwork needs to be followed by all to ensure that all are cleaning properly after the event.

Motion made to adjourn by Warren, first Kevin second to Leslie. 8:20 PM

The Renewal Prayer was read by All

Next Pastoral Council meeting October 16, 7 PM in the Parish Meeting Room

Opening Prayer Sharon Keller

Respectfully Submitted,

Irene Stranz

Pastoral Council Secretary