

## SS Peter and Paul Pastoral Council - Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2023

**Attendees:** Rev. Ted Jost, Deacon Carl Koester, Eileen Lyon, Lori Baker, Leslie Brooks, Joe Burke, Robert Coutch, Sharon Keller, Warren Ristine, Katherine Nicaise-Steffen, Irene Stranz, Deacon Roy Dibb, Judy Shelley, Kevin Morgan, Mary Flanagan

**Excused:** Rev. Jim Cuipek, Deacon Robb Ciezki, Dick Blake, Adam Ciccarella, Holly Stuart, Racael Rizzo, Karin Dusza, Lauren (Ren) Gibson, Amanda Przyklek, Jenifer Golinski, Deacon Dennis Conroy, Don Wach

**Unexcused:** None

The meeting was held in the Parish Meeting Room and was called to order by President Warren Ristine at 7:00 PM. Opening prayer by Sharon Keller. The mission statement was read by all.

Motion to approve the September 2023 meeting minutes by Joe Burke and second by Kathy Nicaise-Steffen unanimously approved. Corrections noted spelling of Coutch and McNichol to be corrected on amended minutes. Minutes will be resent for approval.

### Announcements

Warren thanked all who helped with the ice cream social and welcomed Father Jim. Thanks to all who showed up for the blessing. Warren recognized it was a busy weekend and some of the Pastoral Council could not be present.

In the past couple of weeks, we had two falls at church and social gym recently. Both individuals are okay, one had bruising, and the other slight concussion. Irene reminded that the incident reports are located in the usher room and must be filled out after an injury of a Parishioner or quest. The info helps Linda and the priest to follow up on the person.

Warren apologized for the Pastoral Council roster to be inserted into the bulletin on 9-24-2023. It was a mistake and will not happen again. The information is on the website, however, in the bulletin, it was decided in the past to only post emails for privacy issues.

Warren reminded everyone about the Healing Mass at SSPP on 10/24 at 7 p.m. with Rev. Richard DiGiulio of the Charismatic Renewal Development of the Diocese of Buffalo. There will be confession and adoration from 6-7 PM.

Warren would like a shout-out to the new SSPP principal Mrs. Rizzo who is doing a great job with her newsletter. Well done! Leslie reported that the transparency of the principal's efforts is reflected in the awe from the parents and the school is doing well. It is noted that Principle trying to bridge the gap between the school and the Parish. It was noted from the survey from the Quilted Squirrel there was a need for clubs for kids. The need was met by teachers and parents stepping up to help. Leslie reported that the school is trying to provide a meditation space for the kids in the school. Eileen stated that the

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principal's goals are focused and are reflective of the positive progress and growth within the school's atmosphere.

Warren thanked Irene for the write-up in the bulletin and our Parishioners who cleaned the social center kitchen. The pictures were great feedback and hopefully, all ministries will follow protocol after their event to keep things organized and clean.

### Old Business

Warren reported that 2 Parishioners stepped up to fill the vacancy position on the Pastoral Council. Father Ted drew the name and Greg Jones was selected to complete the two-year term. Father Ted will reach out to Greg to congratulate him and confirm his new position on the Council. Warren will send contact info to Irene to update the roster. Irene will forward past reports to Greg to get him caught up on the happenings at Council.

Family of Parishes Road to Renewal has been challenging with communication reported by Irene. Some Family Pillars work very cohesively while others are challenging.

The [Administration Pillar](#) looking at the development of a family web page, bulletin, and staff handbook.

The Family [Liturgy Pillar](#) has decided on masses for the weekdays and weekends. However, holy day Masses and confessions are still being worked on. Father Ted announced the Liturgy Pillar will be meeting again since one of the weekend Masses must be eliminated per the Diocese.

The [Stewardship Pillar](#) has no minutes to report. Leslie has been trying to get minutes to pass on.

The [Outreach/In Reach Family Pillar](#) is working together and collaborating resources to help each other and especially working as a Family to cover the added needs of the displaced clients seeking shelter in the hotels. This has been a great strain on the Outreach Center.

The [Spiritual Pillar](#) works together to get trained on Life in the Eucharist a 6-week program. Judy asked how many in the group were Eucharist Ministers and how we needed to impress the presence of the Eucharist. Kevin spoke about how the Eucharist Revival is occurring nationally in this country. Judy shared a book by Bishop Barron "This is My Body" which explains how Jesus is in the Eucharist, very inspiring. Deacon Carl shared that there are 16 candidates in RCIA this year. Eileen expressed the concern that a 6-week commitment may be difficult, especially for young Parishioners with families who have limited time with work and their children's activities schedule. Rob noted how the Theology on Tap is a great program for 20-30-year-old adults. Would be nice to include the older adults. Has good topics. Eileen stated how important to meet people where they are now and we recognize what their time commitment is. We need to meet their needs. Leslie added that the young people's time varies on the day

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and is dependent on family commitments. Kevin asked about the Eucharist miracle which Judy states it comes from the witnesses at the meeting. Father Ted states that there is a traveling Eucharist exhibit that travels among churches we could display here. Mary stated that Parish Enrichment's week would be a good time for the display.

[Forming Disciples Pillar](#) has worked on their Family plan sharing data and resources. No new minutes their last 2 meetings were canceled.

Warren asked about how we are getting the communication from the Family Pillars. Currently, Irene shares the minutes with all the reps from SSPP serving on the Family Pillars. Starting last month the minutes are part of the report requests for the Pastoral Council. Father Ted suggested that perhaps there should be a monthly Pillar Family update in the bulletin to communicate to the Parishioners the Pillar progress. Irene expressed the frustration of requesting minutes from the Pillars and not receiving them in a timely fashion to communicate with the others.

Warren expressed how the mass attendance numbers are good, but also how a Bills game impacts the attendance. Irene question do we still need to count at Mass? Irene and others commented that the counters when used are noisy and disturbing at times during Mass. Eileen suggested that the counts continue since they validate the new Mass schedule for a while and Father Ted agreed.

Deacon Carl shared he started communicating articles in the Buffalo News paper regarding the Church and forwards them to other Deacons to stay informed.

Opening Prayer is almost filled. Irene will send the schedule out and resend the link if needed.

Pastoral Council Subcommittees sign sheets will be passed out again at the meeting. Please sign up for at least one committee. The subcommittees will be sent out by Irene with minutes.

Father Ted shared that we will continue to have FORMED. He suggested we encourage others, listed in the bulletin and perhaps with other ministries and the school for usage. Well perceived by all that FORMED was staying.

A comparison chart was shared by Irene from the feedback of the Discipleship Sub-Committee. Discussion was carried out on the advantages and disadvantages that each program could bring to the Parish.

Rob shared that he will be working with Sister Louis on Alpha. Rob informed the group while the program centers on a meal, his experience was that the meal was provided by volunteers. Alpha reinforces the formation programs and RCIA, especially for fallen Christians.

Irene read for the second time after last month's proposed change of the current bylaws. The changes are reflective of the current practice and the value of a member must be in good standing to be allowed to be

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selected for another term. Kevin asked for clarification what is considered good standing. Irene explained that it is a member who communicates if they can not attend a meeting, actively participates in the sub-committee, and responds to emails if requested. Irene made a motion to vote for the Bylaw changes to take place as noted below in red. A motion to be accepted first by Kevin, second by Judy, all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed. Bylaws amended.

### *Article V - COUNCIL NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURES*

A. 1. A Selection Committee, consisting of at least four (4) Council members, shall be established at the January Pastoral Council meeting. The Selection Committee will consist of one member from each subcommittee. The committee will include one person who was involved in the selection process the previous year, has knowledge of the bylaws, and is well-versed in how to organize the selection process. The Selection Committee will not include any candidates seeking selection to the Council.

2. Near the end of a member's first term, **who is in good standing**, shall be contacted by the selection committee and asked if they would like to continue for a second 3-year term. If the member agrees to continue for a second 3-year term, the selection committee will deem that position filled and inform the executive committee.

D. Candidates will be selected from a basket and the names of those  
1 selected will be shared during Mass by the Pastor or his designee. If  
2 a Pastoral Council seat has less than three years remaining on the  
3 term the person selected last will serve the remainder of that term. **In  
the event there are only a minimal amount of candidates, the  
candidates' names will be announced at the Mass versus  
selected from a basket.**

### **New Business**

Warren brought up chicken fundraisers to help the school. The school is hosting a couple of these this year. Father Ted, wants to alternate between Chivettas and Wideners to give equal support since they are both Parishioners. Kathy raised the concern about the Social Ministry doing a barbeque in April and the school to avoid the same time to prevent conflict. Father Ted noted the date.

Father Ted announced we have a new Respect for Life Coordinator for SSPP Erin Thomas

Father Ted shared that he created a men's ministry group at SSPP. Information will be in the bulletin all are welcome.

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Father Ted requested to move the gift table to a break in the aisle near the middle. Relocate a pew in the church to accommodate the table. The goal is to have a designated space and easy access to the gifts at the offertory. Also, the Parishioners would not need to walk the whole aisle.

### **Sub Committee Updates**

Fellowship- No Report

Discipleship- Sharon reports 9 new Parishioners for welcome baskets. The project was welcomed by new Parishioners. Irene shared the pros and cons of the Alpha and Life in the Eucharist findings as discussed before.

Ministry Support- No Report

Procedures and Facilities- No Report

### **Reports**

Kevin committed how the Outreach is ultimately high in usage. A grant did come in. Saint Bernadette has been helping through their Good Neighbor program along with SVDP.

Leslie reported school has 10 new students. Yeah!

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

Eileen shared that at the last trustee meeting, it was discussed that the settlement update would be arriving soon around November. It will be very painful and we as a Parish need to be prepared for the challenges ahead. Eileen explained that the current dioceses assessment is 22.5% for SSPP. We will be paying a portion to the diocese for the settlement. We have no choice. It was voiced that this will be challenging at the same time the family is being developed. It will be decided what our contribution will be, and it will be large. The question that was raised is, does the Number affected and the number of cases affect the amount to be paid out? The answer is unknown at this time. It will be challenging to keep the faith. It is our faith that gives us hope and evangelizes the Spirit.

Luis is moving on from SSPP. He will continue to support our Website till a replacement is found.

Father Ted expressed that a Mass must be eliminated from our Family. He is hopeful that it is not SSPP but still has not confirmed what the outcome is.

Father Ted announced to the Parishioners at Mass that we had not forgotten the plaster repairs in the Church. It is being addressed and apologize for the long delay.

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Irene questions how do we determine what determines the second collection.? The three are; Respect Sunday, Retired Diocesan Priest's Medical Benefits Fund, and Seminarian and Diaconate Formation. The three were picked per Father Ted. Irene expressed that perhaps we should have a collected like Outreach or SVDP that does not get assessed by the Diocese to help support organizations in our community.

Eileen shared that there are 16 Diocesan Collections for 2024. Upon this Rock a portion was to support the Seminarian and this Parish was generous at their goal.

Irene raised the concern that there is not enough time for the Ushers to make the second collection and perhaps there needs to be a second offertory song to give the ushers time. Father Jim realized what going on at Mass Saturday and delayed the consecration time since the ushers were trying to collect for the second collection. Father Ted will try to work with the music ministry to share when there is a second collection.

Eileen shared a booklet from Jenny perhaps to give out during Lent. Irene will follow up on the details.

Motion made to adjourn by Warren, first by Leslie second by Kathy at 9:06 PM

The Renewal Prayer was read by All

|Next Pastoral Council meeting October 13, 7 PM in the Parish Meeting Room

Opening Prayer Irene Stranz

Respectfully Submitted,

Irene Stranz

Pastoral Council Secretary