

SS PETER AND PAUL PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2025

Attendees: Rev. Ted Jost, Charlie Gaughan, Eileen Lyon, Greg Jones, Joan Haag, Colleen Stuart, Joe Burke, Katherine Nicaise-Steffen, Lori Baker, Leslie Brooks, Marcia De Fazio, Robert Couth, Sharon Couth, Sharon Keller, Warren Restine, Chelaine Bauer, Dianne Franz, Lori Haier, Harold Haier, Karen Schunk

Excused: Rev. Jim Ciupek, Rev. Paul Mukasa, Deacon Carl Koester, Deacon Rob Ciezki, Deacon Dennis Conroy, Dan Gerken, Amanda Przyklek, Dick Blake, Katherine Sion-Wypij, Jennifer Golinski, Judy Shelley, Karin Dusza, Rachel Rizzo, Andrea Wahl.

Unexcused: None

The meeting was held in the school cafeteria and was called to order by President Warren Ristine at 7:00 PM.

OPENING PRAYER:

Joe Burke presented the opening prayer.

SSPP MISSION STATEMENT:

All read the Saints Peter and Paul Mission Statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The December 2, 2024, minutes were approved by all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH DECREE – MARCH 3, 2025

Warren welcomed parishioners from Saints John the Baptist parish to pastoral council meeting and to SS Peter and Paul. We all introduced ourselves, and Warren express the sentiment that the merger is something we're all in together and that we welcome those members from Saint John the Baptist who will be joining Saints Peter and Paul parish. Warren thanked Eileen Lyon for inspiring the pastoral council of Saint Peter and Paul to invite the pastoral council from Saint John the Baptist to the meeting. Warren suggested that we look at the merger town hall meeting minutes on the on Saint John the Baptist website. Warren asked the members from Saint John the Baptist what concerns they had regarding the merger. There was a question about Saint John the Baptist Altar and Rosary Society be welcomed by SS Peter and Paul's Altar and Rosary Society. It was mentioned that Judy Shelley has indicated that she is more than happy to have the members of Saint John the Baptist join in the ministry.

DICK BLAKE – RETIREMENT

Dick Blake is retiring after 22 years as a trustee of Saints Peter and Paul parish. He has agreed to helping out with the school budget. It would be up to Fr. Jim to find a replacement for Dick. Eileen explained that due to the bankruptcy, St. John the Baptist will have its own trustee until a civil merger has taken place. There are two corporations, canonical and civil, a civil corporation cannot be dissolved while in bankruptcy. As a result, until the bankruptcy is resolved; St. John the Baptist will still need a trustee.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Warren mentioned the financial report, which indicates that there is a deficit in the budget. The deficit is due in part due to school expenses and to asbestos abatement. Eileen pointed out the asbestos abate was expensive, it was also a one-time expense. She also indicated that although payroll and the school expenses are expensive, the good news is the school enrollment is up. Mrs. Rizzo is doing a phenomenal job as principal of the school. She also mentioned Outreach expense, but also mentioned that Outreach is a jewel in the crown of Saints Peter and Paul parish.

OLD BUSINESS

OPENING PRAYER SIGN-UP – FEBRUARY/MARCH/MAY

Warren once again reached out to the membership for volunteers to do opening prayers in February, March, and May. Joan advised that May was taken care of as she signed up for May's opening prayer. Marsha volunteered to do the February opening prayer. March is still available.

ROAD TO RENEWAL FAMILY OF PARISHES UPDATE

The Spiritual Pillar is very active. We are waiting for information on the other pillars.

GREETING MINISTRY

Greg gave an update on the Greeting Ministry. He is reaching out to Eucharistic Ministers to aid with greeting parishioners as they come to Mass. Greg indicated that it's going slowly, but it is going. The ministry now is using name tags to identify greeters. Greg indicated he's looking for one person to be a lead person for the greeters at each Mass. Greg will be the leader for the 11:30 Mass. While Irene strands has indicated she would be willing to help at the 4:00 PM Mass. Greg is still looking for leaders for the 7:30 Mass and the 9:30 Mass. Warren suggested a list of greeting duties.

NEW BUSINESS

SELECTION COMMITTEE - WARREN

Warren pointed out that our guests from St. John's can put their names in the running for Pastoral Council membership. The requirements for pastoral council are that you be a registered member of the parish and a practicing Catholic. He and Eileen pointed out that there are no longer elections for membership on the Pastoral Council at Saint Peters and Paul parish. The names of those who are interested in running for council membership need only submit their names. The names are placed in a hat. Warren stated that the member selection is left to the Holy Spirit. Those who were in attendance from Saint John the Evangelist were not only invited to put their names in the running for pastoral counseling for next year, they were also invited to come back to the remaining meetings for this year's pastoral council. Leslie, Greg, Joe, and Warren are not eligible to be on the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee coordinates the process of finding candidates. Anyone can invite others to submit their name for consideration. The process for the selection committee can be found in the pastoral council handbook. The process for finding candidates begins in February; the selection is on Pentecost Sunday. The Selection Committee will be looking for candidates to replace those whose term is up plus an alternate to replace a member of the council unable to complete their term. It was pointed out that a council member can serve six consecutive years. That member has to sit out one year, but can run again after that year.

POSTING OF FUNERAL MASSES – SHARON K.

Sharon K expressed the need for posting of obituaries on the bulletin boards at the entrances of the church. This had been done in the past at Saints Peter and Paul parish. She expressed disappointment when you find out someone whose wake or funeral you would have attended and then find out after the fact. Eileen also pointed out that it would be up to the discretion of the family of the deceased to verify that they are in agreement with posting obituary information. Warren asked who would be posting obituary information, and it was confirmed that it would be Linda Reimondo.

SUB COMMITTEE UPDATES

FELLOWSHIP SUB COMMITTEE – KATHY

(name change) picnic update - pastoral council involvement

The parish picnic will be held on Sunday, June 29, 2025, the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul. Kathy is concerned that if the weather is not good, as it was last year, the parish may want to consider looking into the Moose Lodge building as a backup plan for the picnic. Previously it was only the outdoor property that was used for the picnic, and the Moose Lodge did not charge for its use. Kathy is going to get in touch with her contact person at the Moose Lodge to determine what would be involved in

using the building facilities as well as the outdoor facilities. There was also discussion about having the picnic at SS Peter and Paul. It was pointed out that Moose Lodge location is less work than the church location. Also, Moose Lodge is logistically less challenging because of other Masses and parking at Saint Peters and Paul.

DISCIPLESHIP SUB COMMITTEE – SHARON K

There were seven new parishioners in December. There was discussion about the redevelopment of a ministry booklet to be included with the welcome bags. Sharon described the Discipleship Sub Committee's purpose and function for those in attendance from St. John the Baptist.

At this point the members of Saint John the Baptist who were in attendance asked if representative from Saints Peter and Paul would be willing to come to St. John the Baptist and discussing the merger with the parishioners there. The question was asked has anyone in Saint John the Baptist been involved in a merger previously. It was pointed out that the members at Saint John the Baptist been involved in several mergers. There were concerns about how welcomed new parishioners would be at Saints Peter and Paul Church. Warren pointed out that Fr Jim stated that Saints Peter and Paul should not expect a great influx of people because St John the Baptist is to remain as a worship site. Lori pointed out that the decree states that the parish is "extinct," which creates angst. The people coming into Saints Peter and Paul due to the merger and the closing of churches is difficult. Lori pointed out that being invited to the parish council and being invited to be a part of the parish council is a good step. There are a lot of questions that have come up for things that in the past were just the normal part of life is Saint John the Baptist; e.g., St John the Baptist's annual turkey dinner. Lori mentioned that it would be a good idea if some from Saints Peter and Paul came to Saint John the Baptist to address questions regarding merger. Eileen pointed out that feedback from the members of Saint John the Baptist would be helpful in knowing what their concerns and expectations are. Father Ted explained that extinct is a canonical term meaning that the parish is closing and is no longer functioning as a parish. So if funds are needed for example a Turkey dinner you'd have to go to the financial person of the parish to get the funds to hold it. The person to get the money from just changes. Eileen explained also that the money that comes in from Saint Mary parishioner and Saints John the Baptist parishioners is kept in a separate fund is the canonical corporation that closes but not the civil one. As result, the funds have to remain separate. So, if funds are needed; for example, a Turkey dinner you would have to go to the financial person of the parish to get the funds to hold it. The person to get the money from is the only thing that changes. Harold asked if there was a personnel list to know whom to contact. If St. Mary's or Saint John the Baptist has a fundraiser the money from that fundraiser goes into their fund. Harold expressed his opinion that he would never be a part of Saints Peter and Paul parish. Warren pointed out that we are here for a different purpose than the buildings. We are all here to spread the word of Christ. It was suggested that registration for Saint Peter and Paul take place as Saint John the Baptist and at Saint Mary's, and it was agreed that it would be a good idea. Robert Cutch explained his and Sharon's experience with the same type of merger at their previous parish in Diocese of Greenburg, outside of Philadelphia, that the Diocese

of Buffalo is now going through. Robert pointed out that as a family we are now part of a bigger picture, and we can be an asset to one another. For example, you need help with your Turkey dinner, we will help you. You need help with your annual picnic, we will help you. You need Eucharistic Ministers, we will help you, etc. The goal according to Lori is to let people realize that we are all one church; we are all one family. Lori wanted to know is there any possibility in changing the name of the parish as was done at St. John Paul II parish. Eileen explained that during the bankruptcy, it is not possible legally to change of the parish. It may be a possibility in the future. Sharon pointed out that in Greenburg Diocese there was no preparation for their mergers and that everyone was up in arms at the onset, but after the mergers happened everything calmed down. She feels that that is what may happen here in the diocese and within our family parish. God is in this. It was stated that being invited to be a part of the parish council here at Saints Peter and Paul is the first step in the line of communications. And it's a good step. The question was asked when Saints Peter and Paul select parish council members could one slot be reserved for anyone who was from Saint John the Baptist or Saint Mary's to be included on the Saints Peter and Paul parish council? Eileen stated that it would require a change in the bylaws. Warren stated that that was an easy process; it would take a couple of months to do. In the future it's expected there will be one pastoral council for the family.

MINISTRY SUPPORT SUB COMMITTEE

Joe reported that there was a date for the ministry fair. It will be held on May 17 and 18 before and after all Masses. Joe mentioned he would reach out to St John the Baptist to have their ministries represented.

A sub committee will be held on Sunday February 2, at 12:45.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PARISH

Kathy wanted to know whose responsibility it is to clear the walk of snow from Creekbend to the church. Father Ted answered that most of that walk is the property of Creekbend. However, he will instruct SS Peter and Paul's maintenance crew go a bit further to clear walkways for people coming to the church from Creekbend. Kathy also wanted to know if the organist could play the organ a little less enthusiastically so that the choir is not drowned out, and it is easier to follow the singing.

The question of a parish coffee social after Mass was brought up as well since we have not had one in a while. Warren will check with Linda to find out when the church is available.

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

Warren asked for a motion to end the meeting. Charles made the motion and Leslie seconded the motion.

Warren led the members in the Road to Renewal Prayer.

Reminder: the next meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 10 at 7:00 in the Meeting Room.

Marcia DeFazio is the prayer leader.

The meeting ended at 8:25.

