

Sts Peter & Paul Church  
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 3, 2011

Present: Dawn Ligibel, Sarah Kranz, Joe Schippers, Rocky Spader, Pat Covington, Chris Thomas, Bart Cayce, Shannon Trogden, Fr. Ewem, Fr. John Thomas, Carl Schmidt.

Absent: Diana Burch, Libby Downs, Fr. Carmello

Call to order: 6:00 PM, Dawn Ligibel led the prayer/scripture/formation. 1 Corinth 4:1-5 /Joe Schippers will lead the prayer for next meeting, Sarah Kranz will bring the scripture, Pat Covington will lead the formation. Formation this week taken from "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response" highlights from 7 step method for developing true stewardship. The role of the Parish Council in engaging and developing stewardship was emphasized. Minutes from January were approved with modification of one incomplete sentence eliminated. Condolences to Chris Thomas over the passing of his father on February 14, 2011.

**Review of Action Items:** Welcome Committee - Dawn spoke with the co-chairs (Diana Burch and Jan Buckner) and asked to review their ideas. This committee would report to the stewardship director. Working with Judy to be sure to find out who the newly registered members are. A welcome table at the Masses and other suggestions. Bart suggests a plan be put in writing on what they are going to do and present it to stewardship for approval or PPC would review and approve it at the next meeting. (Email to PPC before the next meeting) Father Ewem also will refer two parishioners who have expressed an interest in being on the Welcome Committee and will give their names to the co-chairs of the committee. \$5 challenge - had some new participation in the electronic debits and the red envelopes will be added to the packets. Review of envelopes was reviewed by Tom Buehrle. Fr. John will present the results at the next meeting. The tracking of the \$5 challenge may increase when the red envelopes are added. Hopeful to stop the second collection after red envelopes are added. Facebook updates: Libby emailed her notes to Fr. John. Two people said "yes" and they were encouraged to use the emailed bulletin to add to updates on the page. Child-Care/2year old program update: Sarah distributed her findings including student/teacher ratio/square footage per child/bathroom access, etc. Bart asks about building a new building for St Vincent de Paul, moving church offices to the current St Vincent de Paul building, then use the parish offices and expand for a preschool area. Sarah will ask that someone come in from the Cabinet to assess the grounds, space, etc., to see what would be required. (Sq ft per student, bath, etc.) Bart will determine the size of building needed for St Vincent de Paul. (Both to be determined before the April meeting.)

Music Director- Fr. John reports active recruiting of a music director, even with Finance directives to make budget cuts - feels it can be done. One person with credentials that can work in the school as well as lead the music is seriously considering and working with Fr. John right now about a commitment.

Stewardship: Decided roll out of the time and talent survey and stewardship committee itself will wait until someone can be appointed as Stewardship Director. Yet with the hiring of a stewardship director, how can we make budget cuts? Fr. John will "hire" a part-time "volunteer" Stewardship Director.

Eventually this position may migrate into a paid position. Bart voices concerns over a timeline when the time and talent survey will roll out versus the timing (liturgical year, etc.) and also rolling out of the stewardship plans. Rocky voices concern over having someone appointed as manager/director of the stewardship needs of the parish, that they be completely aware of the seriousness of their position and needs. Bart also voices concern that anything rolled out to the church be brought before the parish council first. Dawn also reiterates that the current committee is committed to "assisting" and encouraging the new director/manager to expedite any proceedings.

Budget cuts: Pat Covington begins the discussion with his concern that Youth and our School should not receive any of the budget cuts. Bart expressed concern over last month's meeting that the middle school is the expense which the church subsidizes which is causing the church deficit; and how long before those will filter to the pre-5th grades and cause issues. Fr. John states we received a generous donation of \$50 K which has helped, and yet the parish continues to creep back into further debt. Concerns that our school is also the future of our parish and how would cuts affect this. Bart reminds that the younger programs at other churches do produce more income and the middle school being less in numbers adds to the deficit financially of the parish. Fr. John also expresses that the school is not the only place to make cuts. Rocky expressed concern again that the Catholic parents of middle school age children that will not send their children here to SSPP for reasons such as: not a good basketball team, or their friends are going to another school, or many other reasons that the child seems to not be happy. Rocky expressed concern that the children are dictating - where the parents should stand up and be the parent and say you are going to receive a Catholic education. The PPC makes recommendations regarding budget cuts, but Fr. John will make the decision. Fr. John has made some decisions but is still considering others. They will be disclosed. Dawn encouraged Fr. John to make decisions that will be best for the parish without regard to criticism. Rocky asks if an insert can be placed in the bulletin asking "if your child is not in SS Peter and Paul, why not?" Hopeful that parents will heed the call and respond by sending their children to Sts Peter and Paul Catholic School knowing it will build character, superior education, instill and reinforce Catholic beliefs, among only a few of the benefits. Open house is scheduled for March 27 and an ad is going into the newspaper. Keeping the school in the forefront of the bulletin and at Masses is requested. Chris also notes that due to upcoming weather changes, the parish hall air conditioning/ furnaces will need replacing. Fr. John states as of today both furnaces are not working.

Modifications to the PPC Election Process: In order to change the election process, the Bylaws of the PPC Constitution would need to be amended. Article VI (page 7 of current bylaws) reviewed and a proposal for this year's election process was distributed. Shortening the timeframe of the process and taking out a "popularity" contest is the essence of the suggestions. Parishioners will be notified as to the seriousness of their "yes" to the council. They will be required to attend an educational workshop if interested in becoming a member of the PPC. Everyone will attend the workshop in its entirety. At the conclusion of the workshop each participant will say yes leave my name in the process or no to remove them. The PPC will read and take this into prayer before the next meeting. A review and vote for the changes will be made at the next PPC meeting.

Liaison updates: Chris distributed updates for his committees and Sarah reviewed the education

updates. (These should be included with the minutes). Review - 8 of the 18 Governor's Scholars nominees this year were students of SS Peter and Paul. Dawn asks if there is any way to track ACT results of previous SPP students who are graduating high school this year.

Action Items: **1.** Fr. John - How many parishioners participate in the offering with envelopes. **2.** Fr. John will have facebook updater to also "seek" parishioners to "friend" the SPP page. **3.** Dawn will acquire a written plan from welcome committee and email to council prior to the next meeting. **4.** Sara will also give the FB updater information from the school. **5.** Sarah - assessments for daycare/preschool. (April) **6.** Bart - St Vincent de Paul specifics. (April) **7.** All council members review changes to election process and be prepared to vote. **8.** School insert for promoting the school - Sarah will create and email to Bart and he will print the insert for the bulletin. **9.** Sarah will inquire about tracking ACT scores of previous SPP students.

What are we communicating to the parish and how? When budget cuts are made, when music director is hired, when Stewardship Director is appointed, these things need to be communicated. School updates.

Pastor's comments - Ed Shemwell gave his two weeks' notice. Steven Kinnard was hired as his replacement. Prayers are requested. PPC members were encouraged to assist Steven in any way possible as he transitions into the position.

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be March 24, 2011 at 6 PM. The executive committee will meet March 10, 2011 at 5:00 PM. If you are unable to attend the March meeting, please contact Dawn or Father John as soon as you can.