

St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish
SJB Parish Pastoral Council Committee Meeting Minutes
BRING PEOPLE - BODY, MIND AND SOUL - TO CHRIST

Meeting Date: December 19, 2023

Call to Order: 7:10 pm

Prayer: Father Paul Ruwe

PPC Members: Dave Haller; Doreen Heuser; Sylvia Ruthven; Louis Egbert; Kathy Nocks; Teresa Meyer; Doug Lohman; Hank Menninger (excused); Mary White; Roxann Rybolt; Logan Montgomery; Pete Hebauf

Previous PPC Meeting Minutes: November Meeting Minutes have been approved and distributed. Motion to approve: 1st D. Heuser; 2nd R. Rybolt

Staff Report: Teresa Palmer – Pastoral Associate Minister – She began by talking about the six candidates from OCIA who came into Full Communion with the catholic Church on 11-12. She stated this is since opening OCIA up to year-round instead of just one time a year. //The Advent Small groups began on 11-27. They are using the Ascension Press Rejoyce an Advent Pilgrimage into the Heart of Scripture, Year B journals/videos. There are more than 40 parish participants. They have asked about Lent and if there is a similar program. //T. Palmer stated the Mike Davis program on 12-12 was a success. //She then talked about how she has been helping get Dr. Patrick Wickliffe, new Music Director, and Melissa Welter, the new Ed Choice office worker, on board with various office systems, etc. //The Parish and School Music selections for Advent, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mother and the Penance Services were selected and all went well. // She helped with the parish Christmas card design. //Currently she is working a on a Ministry schedule for January 2024 through March 2024 Masses; preparing for Christmas masses, //The young adults attended the Sacred Architecture tour of St. Peter in Chains Cathedral Basilica on 11-11. They saw behind scenes and also learned about the history of the Cathedral and their Catholic Faith in Cincinnati. There is also a Young Adult Christmas Movie night scheduled for 12-15. //Along with everything else, T. Palmer stated they plan to decorate the church and gathering space for Christmas a bit earlier because of the short fourth Sunday of Advent time frame. The date will be on Saturday, 12-23.

Pastor's Report: Father Paul began with a clarification of the answers given by Pope Francis to Dubai (particular questions) from bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, the Dicastery (formerly Congregation) for the Doctrine of Faith recently issued the declaration FIDUCIA SUPPLICANS reiterates the Church's perennial teaching on marriage and the Nuptial Blessing that accompanies it, while also acknowledging that blessings of a second kind (popular devotions, that is, non-liturgical and non-sacramental) may be imparted upon all people who may ask for them, even if those persons are in irregular situations, including same-sex unions. Also, FIDUCIA SUPPLICANS states that any blessings imparted upon those in irregular situations are not to have any appearance of liturgical rites. Such blessings may not be imparted at the same time as ceremonies of a civil union, nor with the clothing, gestures, or words proper to a wedding. Finally, the document clearly stated that by such popular, devotional blessings there is no intention to legitimize any individual's irregular state in life. So, a priest may offer a blessing of a general variety to an individual who requests one. No liturgical/sacramental rite may be offered that publicly gives the impression that an irregular couple (same-sex or man and woman) is in a sacramental marriage. In general, people may be "blessed" devotionally/popularly, but only sacramental marriage may be "blessed" liturgically, and therefore, validly. He stated as the media's reporting of these issues is rarely clear or unbiased, he felt it is important to share this with PPC and it will go out in a Flock Note and in the Bulletin. He stated he understands how vagueness may still be present. However, in conclusion, the Catholic Church does not sanction (or "bless") same-sex marriages, formally or informally. Individual Catholics, even those in irregular circumstance, may seek a popular, devotional blessing of a personal, non-liturgical character. There was some

discussion on whether this had been known in the past. Father stated, yes, it is nothing new, just clearly stated now. M. White asked if there was a purpose for the timing of this statement due to the Christmas holiday. Father did not think there was any type of timing decision, just the timing of the DCF to address the questions posed to Pope Francis. There were also some questions from PPC members concerning how Father handles funerals of same-sex individuals. Father stated he has not been involved in any funerals of this type he is aware of. There was more discussion concerning sexual orientation of people and blessings. In a prior document, *RESPONSUM AD DUBIUM*, published by the DDF in 2021, the impossibility of the first type of “blessing” (i.e., liturgical & sacraments) for same-sex unions are clearly stated.

Business Manager Report: M. Newton submitted the financial report for October and explained how October is usually a slow month for financials. D. Haller asked if the collections budget is planned month by month or weekly. M. Newton stated it is planned quarterly. He does budget differently for those months with five weeks. //He then began reporting on the October financials. Church: October collections were below budget. Other income was significantly above budget due to the Luebbe donation and new church donations. October expenses were below budget due to favorable wages and benefits and the timing of utility payments. He stated SJB has had six months of not paying a Music Minister and that has helped reduce expenses. //YTD revenue has been favorable as collections are still above budget and Other Income, led by the Luebbe donation, were above budget. YTD expenses are favorable due to favorable wages and benefits and utility costs offsetting high maintenance costs (rectory plumbing repair). //School: October revenue is slightly favorable due to PreK-8 revenue being above budget. October expenses were favorable due to the quarterly Butler County teacher payment which was budgeted in November but not yet paid. YTD revenue was slightly favorable as the favorable student fee income offset a shortfall in preschool tuition, the latter being timing. YTD expenses were favorable primarily due to budgeted, but unpaid Butler County payment and favorable wages and benefits. //Total Church, School, Cafeteria: Revenue, driven by the Luebbe donation, and expenses were better than budget resulting in a sizeable favorable profit variance. //Statement of Financial Position: The October cash balance increased due to the monthly profit. //The Turkey dinner revenue of \$13.1K was up slightly from 2022, with profit decreasing slightly; however, it was a very successful event. //Church Advent postcards were mailed. //Building and grounds: nothing to report. // School: Nothing to report. //Other New Music Minister hired (Dr. Patrick Wickliffe) who began 12-5. // Near Term Activities (Underway/Planned): Finance: November reconciliation; 24/25 school tuition; Bank Maintained Positive Pay implementation; exploration of Employee Retention Tax Credit. Church: Luebbe family update meeting. Buildings & Grounds continuation of rectory plumbing work and font granite repair. School: Rollout of Ed Choice program changes. M. Newton stated that most families who have paid tuition have been reimbursed and SJB has gotten the money from Ed Choice. He stated A. Land has been working diligently on this and complimented her results.; Optimal (Jon Peterson provider) strategy, planning on spending security grant, FACTS implementation, 24/25 school year registration documents. Other: Athletic fields fundraising. He explained that Jolene from Brater Funeral Home has offered a match on all donations through December up to \$5,000. There was an insert included in the latest Bulletin with details. // There was a question concerning what the Bank Maintained Positive Pay program is. M. Newton explained it ensures that checks cannot be changed from \$2.00 to \$200.00 without SJB knowing. It is a program that is working and will be help with fraud. M. Newton was also asked about the SJB Festival. He stated the bands have now been signed for the SJB festival for 2024. // **How has he impacted the STJB Vision this month? (Bring People – Body, Mind and Soul – to Christ)?** M. Newton has impacted the vision with continuous focus on maintaining financially stable parish through adequate collections, expense control, balance sheet management and budgetary accuracy. Enhancing our infrastructure through effective use of donated funds.

Pastoral Associate Minister: See above report

Music Director: No report

Principal: Nichole Hermann reported the students performed Willie Wonka Jr. with the Performing Arts, Inc. More than 40 students participated. They are planning another show in the Spring. //Parent/Teacher conferences were held in November and had excellent attendance. // Faculty attended two MAP training sessions. //Students in 5th-8th grade participated in The Body Matters program taught by Pregnancy Center West. //The 2nd graders celebrated their First Reconciliation and all students went to Benediction in November. //She completed initial meeting in process of launching FACTS as the school information system in 2023 through 2025. //Near Term Activities (Underway/Planned): Marketing for preschool/kindergarten information nights and Open House. Planning initial meeting in process of launching FACTS application and enrollment for registration in January for 2023 through 2024. Completing final setup and purchases to launch Markerspace room. Room should be functional in January 2024. Planning for end of 2nd quarter – December 20. School closed 12-21 through 1-2-24 for Christmas break. Winter MAP testing to be completed in early January 2024. **How has she impacted the STJB Vision this month: (Bring People – Body, Mind and Soul – to Christ):** We have impacted the vision this month by preparing and planning for improvements to the school for the betterment of our students and community.

Director of Religious Education: Jonathan Schafer reports greeted parents and subbed for the different PSR classes that need help each week. //He had the Youth Ministry Night with pizza and learning about Saints for grades 6-12. Had a good crowd and they spent time in Adoration. //All of the school went to exposition and benediction with music and time for quiet prayer. //Planned for school Masses and trained servers and new student lectors. // The 8th grade students participated in the NET Ministry Confirmation Retreat. //Taught a few OCIC meetings for kids preparing to come into the Church at Easter. //School and PSR classes continue on Sunday mornings and evenings. //Held a First Reconciliation Practice and Retreat Night in Church. //Organized first Reconciliation Night for 2nd graders. //Youth group held a babysitting night to raise money for the Steubenville Conference over the summer. // High School Youth had a movie night, “One Night with the King” (learning about Esther). // Organized an began an Advent study with the school teachers. // Talked to the students in the younger grades in class about adoration. // Youth Group had the 3rd Small Group Meeting called CONNECT. // Prepared materials for music at school Mass. // Organized a can food drive for the St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry with the school/PSR. Near Term Activities (Underway/Planned): Preparing for Confirmation in January 2024; Finishing paperwork for all sacraments; looking for more volunteers in PSR; Planning another Youth Group Babysitting Night; Christmas Card Service project for Youth. **How has he impacted the STJB Vision this month: (Bring people – Body, Mind and Soul – to Christ)?** He impacted the vision through these areas. Body, mind and soul – Helping the students encounter Jesus in Benediction for the whole school and the 8th graders participating in a NET retreat.

Parish Life: no report

Athletic Association: They will sponsor the Bountiful Hearts meal on 1-27-24. //Volleyball Update: There were some concerns with Triple Ball from 3rd/4th grade coaches. They sent a note to GWAC. Boys: Working on coordinator duties. May need a few new balls and are researching sizes. // GWAC Update: Twenty-five brand new officials request was to have some leniency. Some issues with some players not wanting to play. High school rostered girls cannot play in the GWAC. High school will forfeit games if OHSAA becomes aware of this. //Girls' Basketball: Coordinator packets were mailed. There is a rule change coming. One in one is no longer after seven fouls. They will go to five fouls per quarter, automatic two shots. Fouls go back to zero after each quarter. This is a new high school rule nationwide. //Uniforms: Boys' basketball uniforms; Need parents to sign form. Girls' basketball uniforms are ready once they have team assignments. Need Baseball uniform vendor. Boys' volleyball will need uniforms. //New Field Update: Currently around \$53k has been acquired. They will

begin excavation before the ground freezes. They plan to form a sub-committee to work through fundraiser ideas. //Basketball Update: Boys' League games began. There is one 5th/6th team with mainly 5th graders playing on a 6th grade league. Camp opportunity: boys and girls – 3-9 two sessions by grade level (2-4, 5-8) hosted by Josh Duncan, who has college experience. Gym to be reserved. Girls': Key dates: Teams submitted via league website and paperwork due by 12-10-23. Coordinator meeting 12-13. //Baseball Update: Registration is open. Uniforms: Pants are in the storage unit. //Social Media update: Send information to 513 520-9871. //How has this group impacted the STJB Vision: (Bring People – Body, Mind and Soul – to Christ)? They continue to work on ways to increase participation in the Athletics program to expand the connection between our children and our Catholic faith.

Building and Grounds: See M. Newton's report.

Social Action Committee: K. Nocks reported he November Bountiful Hearts meal was provided by Mrs. Anneken's 4th grade class and parents. The children made placemats for the neighbors. There will be a drive through meal of ham, baked potato, green beans and dessert provided by the social action committee due to the short time for Christmas. //Eighteen parishioners packed 74 bags of groceries in cold weather and delivered the food to families we serve for the feed the children. //SVdP they are now serving approximately 90 families each month through the pantry. The new pantry has easy access. Coat drive: they had more than 60 people get coats this year which is up from last year's 21. There were also many families this year. //Cathy then talked about the Sharing Tree which is organized by Monica Burger. A record number of families in need: 62 families with 180 children. Miami Whitewater school had 12 families with 50 children for a total of 72 families and 230 children. R. Rybolt asked if the pantry is refrigerated or has a refrigerator. Cathy stated they have a refrigerator and freezer.

Old Business: PPC decided to take January 2024 off and not hold a Meet and Greet.

New Business: No new business

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: M. White: 2nd D. Heuser

Prayer: Father Ruwe

Submitted by: S. Ruthven 12-19-23