

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

Meeting Date: January 18, 2022 (Zoom Meeting)

Call to Order: 7:32pm

Prayer: Father Jeff

PPC Members: Don Kuntz; Bob Ostertag; Sylvia Ruthven; Dave Haller; Doreen Heuser (excused); Rose Humbert; Kathy Nocks, Marianne Lienesch; Doug Lohman; Hank Menninger; Pam Reiter

Previous PPC Meeting Minutes: December Meeting Minutes approved and were distributed. Motion to approve by H. Menninger; 2nd M. Lienesch

Staff Report: *School Principal:* N. Herrmann reported: As of 1-14-22; a surge in COVID. Forty-two student/staff reported positive. As a result, masks are required for all students and staff. //Third graders participated in a Christmas performance. //She has also completed audit with ODE for SJB's Auxiliary and ACR funds. // N. Herrmann has met several times with LetItShine and continues to work on the school's new website. She continues work with HCESC to secure approval for purchases using EANS funds. //She, M. Newton and Father are working on plans to increase enrolment in the school. M. Lienesch asked if she could eventually see our school merging with another Catholic school, such as St. Bernard. Father answered he does not see that happening. St. Bernard is a school within their own parish family. //N. Herrmann is currently planning a School Open House for 1-30-22 at 2:30 pm. She is also planning for Catholic Schools Week. **How has she impacted the STJB Vision this month** (Bring people – body, mind and soul – to Christ)? She has impacted the vision by sharing the Nativity story with students and community through the student Christmas performance and now is planning the Open House where she will welcome prospective families to our Catholic School.

New Process for Selection of PPC Members: D. Haller provided copies of the new PPC Constitution with changes to the process for new members. This was the third and final reading. K. Nocks also talked a bit about the process of changing from three-year terms to four-year terms by 2025. A written page was handed out at the December 2021 meeting to be included in files. There was some discussion about restoring the June PC meeting since the festival is no longer in June. D. Kuntz asked D. Haller to adjust that paragraph in Constitution. D. Kuntz called for a motion to approve the new Constitution with all changes. P. Reiter made the motion and it was seconded by K. Nocks. The vote was: Yes: 10 and No: 0. D. Haller also wrote an article to be included in the Bulletin, Flock note, SJB website and Jaguar Jungle in February announcing the changes. Father asked him to get with J. Hollerman for those changes. D. Kuntz ended with a statement PPC should begin inviting people to place their names for this year's PPC selection process.

Pastor's Report: Father Jeff was pleased with how well Christmas went. Attendance was down a little due to COVID and some misprinting in publication that indicated a ticket was needed for Christmas Masses. //Father is also trying to increase the number of servers, especially from Jr. High and High School. He would like to see three servers at each Mass. He is also wanting more young people to serve as greeters and ushers for weekend masses. He believes the presence of young people is important to SJB. //Confirmation went very well. //He stated we have been having a lot of funerals lately. //Currently, he stated things are lining up well for Ash Wednesday and other activities during Lent. //He is pleased at how well the Staff has been following the guidelines they received from the amazing Parish retreat a few years ago. //RCIA is moving along well. Some will be ready for the Easter celebration while others, who came later, may celebrate later. M. Lienesch asked how many adults are being brought into the church through RCIA. Father stated six with three children. //

D. Kuntz stated that the PPC wanted to acknowledge D. Lohman's father, Edgar, for his many years of service on PPC and other work in the parish. He announced the PPC has taken a collection among its members and that money will be donated to the Reach Out Pregnancy Center in honor of Edgar Lohman. D. Lohman was thankful.

Business Manager Report: M. Newton attached the November Financial Summary to his report. He stated that the collection letter placed in the Bulletin has been successful. While November collections were low, December is more positive. // YTD revenue significantly above budget due to festival and pledge payments offsetting a collections shortfall, while expenses were lower than budget, most of which will be offset by December interest adjustment. //School: YTD revenue is very favorable, but again, that is due primarily to the early payment of tuition. A small expense favorability is due mostly to timing. //Total Church and School: YTD revenue and expenses are favorable to budget with some being real and some being timing. //Statement of Financial Position: The November cash balance decreased primarily due to the \$126K new church bank loan payment. //Building & Grounds: Preparation for Christmas, old church internal wall repairs and painting, normal work orders. School: 22/23 tuition finalized. K-8 a 4% increase less multi-student discount; PreK/PS: a 4% increase. A greater gap between P3 & P4, greater increase, in non-parishioner rate; Fees: increase in registration, processing and credit card fees. Church: Holiday post card. **How has he impacted the STJB Vision this month: (Bring people – body, mind, and soul – to Christ)?** By having a significant focus on maintaining a financially stable parish through collections and school tuition. There have been multiple efforts to facilitate a positive Advent worship experience through the postcard communication and the preparation of the church for Christmas.

Pastoral Associate: E. Hollis reports on 12-1-21 the Parish Advent Reconciliation Service was successful. //At a school Mass they celebrated with Sophia Cowan the Rite of Acceptance into the Catechumenate. // He Selected and scheduled "Sunday Advent" and coinciding "This week at Home" Printings for the Bulletin for all weeks of Advent and the Christmas Bulletin. //E. Hollis also prepared and coordinated the December 5th celebration of the Combined Rites of Acceptance into the Catechumenate & Welcoming Baptized Candidates Seeking Full Communion at the 11:15 am Mass. //He prepared and coordinated December 7 Advent Prayer Concert with Mike Davis. //E. Hollis prepared and coordinated December 11 celebrating Fr. Shine's 90th birthday after the 4 pm Mass.// He took Young Adults to the Weaver Christmas Lights for an evening of reflection and fellowship. //He hosted the Annual Young Adult Christmas gathering at his home with faith, food and fun. //He prepared and coordinated the book give away for parishioners at Christmas Masses along with the special bookmark. //E. Hollis participated in Synod 2021-2023 Conference call and other communications. He serves as point person for St. Lawrence Deanery along with Joy Gemperline. //He scheduled two deanery meetings for February 2022. **How has he impacted the STJB Vision this Month: (Bring people – body, mind and soul – to Christ)?** In his activities throughout Advent, he has drawn people to Christ or back to Christ. Christmas is one of two main times of the year many people come to church and are open to evangelization and God's love.

School Principal: See Staff Report above

Religious Education: T. Palmer reports she completed the Teacher Advent study. She aided Sophia Cowan receiving the Rite of Acceptance on 12-3 as part of Sophia's journey to baptism at the Easter Vigil. //She is planning the Confirmation Retreat in January along with the Confirmation Mass. **How has she impacted the STJB Vision this month: (Bring people – body, mind, and soul - to Christ)?** Through the teachers Advent study, she brought teachers and school staff closer to Christ. This was not only the study, but the discussions they had together. PSR attended both the Immaculate Conception Mass and the parish penance service which brought them closer to Christ and also many of their family members who attended. Through her own Advent reading of Luke each day. This affected her own body, mind and soul, but also affected the kids she touches. She used many of the insights she had and taught through interactions she had with youth and volunteers.

Music Director: M. Johnson reports leading music and recruiting priests for the Advent Reconciliation Liturgy. This service has grown over the years with 10 priests and prayerful atmosphere provided by soft background music. //He prepared and played all Christmas Mass music. He noticed a growing crowd at the midnight Mass for Christmas. He was involved in the Liturgical Environment for Christmas which was a bit more like 2019. He thanked the suppliers for their contribution of beautiful plants/ trees/ wreaths: Lohman Greenhouse; Jackson Florist; A.J. Rahn Greenhouse and Tropical Foliage Plant Wholesales. He also thanked the team who helped design, set up and take down the beautiful Advent season decorations. **How has he impacted the STJB Vision this month: (Bring people – body, mind, and soul – to Christ)?** He states that some parishes use fake trees, wreaths and greenery for their Christmas liturgical environment. Part of the reason we utilize real plants/ trees/ greenery/ etc. is that they help focus on the beauty of God’s creation. There is value of authenticity in our liturgical environment. Our sacramental rituals engage our senses to help us enter into encounters with God. Being able to have not only the sights and sounds of Christmas, but also the smells of fresh cedar and pine engage a layer of our senses that the artificial just cannot. He feels blessed to be part of a parish that makes the extra effort to foster encounters with God through our liturgies.

Building and Grounds: See report from Business Manager.

Parish Life: P. Reiter reports the ROMEO’s met for the first time in two years at Monk’s. However, no men showed up. H. Martini plans to keep promoting the lunch. //Breakfast Club meets 2nd Saturday of every other month. // JULIETS meets fourth Thursday of every other month. The Junk in the Trunk event will be held in 2022. K. Thomas is the leader of this event. //**How has this group impacted the STJB Vision this month: (Bring people – body, mind and soul – to Christ)?** Parish Life’s purpose is to develop and host social activities for the gathering of SJB parishioners to grow together as God’s family, to celebrate together each other’s lives and to promote Christ’s love through outreach to the Community and the World.

Reports from Social Action: K. Nocks reports since the Bountiful Hearts meal (The 4th Saturday of month) was Christmas, they notified people they would be distributing a Christmas meal for them on Saturday 12-18-21. The next Bountiful Hearts meal is scheduled for 1-22-22 and will be hosted by the St. John’s Athletic Association. //Feeding Hungry Children: Kathy and Dick Nocks delivered food for the Christmas break on 12-14-21 to 12 families with 42 children to be fed. The next delivery will be on Spring Break. //Community Garden: More gardeners are needed when planting begins in the spring. //Hope’s Journey: Sufficient funds have been raised to start the men’s home, but they still need a location. They are still working on details. //Spanish Mass: Usually there are between 35 and 40 people attending, but on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on 12-12-21 there were 58. One of the members brought special music. //Transportation: not many calls have been received; however, they are ready to help those who need a ride. //Stephen Ministry: This is a great support ministry to help those struggling with life issues. There is a box in the church for those interested in reaching out for help to place their name and number. //El Salvador: COVID has caused the group to cancel their plans for a visit. They have had a generous response from parishioners and friends for the school tuition. A total of \$50,600 was sent to Santa Cruz parish and about \$20,000 will go to Our Lady of Guadalupe parish. Blood Drive: Scheduled for 7-21-22. K. Nocks also reported on SVdP. They want to thank everyone for a very successful Christmas Sharing Tree this year. Once again, this spring, we will be joining the Boy Scouts for a “stuff the tent” food pantry drive. More information will be in the Bulletin.

Athletic Association: Upcoming Board positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary and the group will revisit their by-laws. //M. Newton discussed CPR training for coaches. The Board decided to explore options for offering a course. Some coaches are already certified through their employers. M. Newton advised the group of

the new report segment on how they have impacted the STJB Vision – Bring People Body, Mind and soul to Christ. // Basketball: Boys: Season has been good except for the cancellations due to COVID. The possibility of rescheduling games is slim. Most gyms already rent out their space seven days a week. Girls; Schedules will be out 1-24-22. Coaches have been secured for the 3rd/4th grade instructional combo team. 2-5-22 is first game. //Baseball: registration is open through 2-5-22. Fees for renting fields are more than the 2021 for renting K of C fields. M. Newton is meeting with architect for new fields. Based on the additional field rental costs they face for 2022, with either option, the need to make the fields at the new church a priority. More field time will be needed for the Softball teams too. The Athletics Committee continues to discuss fund raising opportunities.

Festival: M. Newton reports the festival committee has agreed to hold festival on 8-5 and 6. SJB will change the festival from a three-day festival to a two-day festival. There will still be a drive through chicken dinner. There are many details to work out.

Old Business: D. Kuntz says we should all focus on the vision statement – Bringing people – Mind, body and soul – to Christ. He opened the meeting up for discussion on ideas for helping bring the vision further along. B. Ostertag thought the praying of the Rosary outside of the Harrison Fire House might be a good way to show our faith. This outside praying of the Rosary happens every Wednesday at 7 pm outside the Harrison Fire House and all are welcome. H. Menninger believes we should be looking toward beginning the next phase of building the church. He believes the bell tower would go a long way in showing the community that SJB is here by the ringing of the bells. There was also some talk about the Spanish Mass and what would happen if Father Shine could no longer be the celebrant. K. Nocks believes the parish should get to know who PPC is and what we do by attending Mass and staying in the gathering space talking to parishioners. She suggests we all have name tags. M. Lienesch suggested a suggestion box in the gathering space where parishioners could make suggestions. R. Humbert suggested a series of internet films called Formed. These films and segments go a long way in detailing the Catholic faith and have details on the Gospel, etc. M. Newton suggests forming sub groups such as new parishioners, young families, etc. for more demographic focus. D. Kuntz suggested Google Call for random questions from parishioners. He also suggests more statements in the Bulletin about the SJB Vision; perhaps some article in Jaguar Jungle; a monthly spotlight on certain parishioners and what they do; involve more youth in Mass; and an updated “Welcome Book”. He noted, however, many of these ideas would have to have Father’s approval.

New Business: D. Kuntz stated it is time for PPC to sponsor a Bountiful Hearts Dinner. He asked for volunteers to be coordinators. K. Nocks shared several menu possibilities. We ended the discussion by picking a date for sponsoring the dinner and work on details at next several meetings. //S. Ruthven brought up questions parishioners have about the books from the Archdiocese. Father and M. Newton say they have been in contact with Archdiocese who say the books are hung up in shipping.

Adjournment: Motion: D. Lohman; 2nd B. Ostertag

Prayer: Father Jeff

Submitted: S. Ruthven, Secretary 1-18-22