

Peace of Christ Parish  
Pastoral Council Minutes  
St. John the Evangelist Church Hall  
November 9, 2021

Council Members Present: Mary Ann Borrelli, Kathy Callahan, Vern Connors, Judy Dickinson, Carol Fuchs, Ann Kurz, John David McManus, Guy Kevin Reed, Anne Ross, Shanna Sellers

Parish Representatives Present: Fr. Peter Mottola, Fr. Tim Brown, Deacon Marcelo DeRiso

Excused: J a n e K o c h , Mary Lochner, Cathy Witner, Deacon Robert Corsaro, Emily Kwiatkowski, Cerys Montanarello

Others Present: Anthony and Stella Nozzi, David DiNardo, Anthony Ross, Goldie Rogers, Carol Reed, Patrick Callahan, Michael and Matthew Grosodonia, Jeanne Loysen, et al.

Recording Secretary: Vern Connors

Meeting opened at 7:00 pm

1. Opening Prayer: Judy Dickinson
2. Approval of Minutes – Motion by Guy Kevin Reed to approve the October meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Ann Ross, adopted unanimously. The November meeting agenda was also accepted as presented.
3. Open Forum – was moved to the end of the meeting to allow time for discussion.
4. Council Chair Report – Mary Ann Borrelli reminded Council members that training for Lay Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, and other parish support roles will take place on 11/13. Judy Dickinson asked for volunteers to assist Sheila in the Parish Office given the recent staff changes.
5. Youth Ministry Report – Youth Counselor John David McManus presented an update of recent and upcoming Youth Ministry activities. There will be two Sunday night Youth Ministry events each month, and a Spiritual Reflection and Holy Hour on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the each month. A copy of their report is attached to the minutes for details.
6. Financial Report – Father Peter presented an update of the Parish finances for 2020-21 actual results, 2021-22 projected results, and a 2022-23 financial outlook.
  - a) 2020-21 Fiscal Year – ended with a \$545,837 operating deficit due mainly to the loss of rental income from the Urban Choice Charter School. However, there were one-time revenues from the Paycheck Protection Program and an insurance settlement that reduced the 2020-21 deficit to \$202,534.
  - b) 2021-22 Fiscal Year – The adopted budget included a \$363,132 operating deficit for the year due to the loss of rental income from Urban Choice. The adopted budget did not include any program adjustments to close the budget gap as Father Bob and the Finance Committee did not want to make program changes that the incoming pastor might support. The year-to-date operating deficit is \$119,947 through October, which is tracking very closely to the adopted budget.
  - c) 2022-23 Fiscal Outlook - The parish anticipates that a new charter schools will begin using the St. John the Evangelist school building in Fall of 2022. However, the new charter school will open as a K-1 building and will grow out by adding grade levels in subsequent years. The building will need

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an elevator and other renovations for handicap accessibility. This would result in a lower income than the parish experienced with Urban Choice. As a result, the parish will still face an annual operating deficit in excess of \$100,000 in future years.

7. Open Forum – Father Peter began the discussion by outlining the choices he faced to address the budget deficit. It was largely a choice between closing worship sites or adjusting staffing/program levels. Father Peter believes that churches are sacred and does not ever want to close a worship site. He also supports St. Ambrose Academy, pointing out that the parish would still have to contribute 17% of its collections to diocesan catholic education even if the school were to close.

Father Peter explored several options for staff adjustments including shared positions with other parishes and/or natural attrition through retirement. As these efforts did not bear fruit, he chose to eliminate the Pastoral Associate, Office Manager, and Administrative Assistant positions to balance the budget, replacing these three positions with a single newly-create Office Manager & Liturgy Coordinator joint-position.

The discussion was opened for a question and answer session regarding parish finances and the recent staffing changes.

- A. The staffing changes were announced suddenly. Could the process been carried out differently? Father Peter expressed sadness for the results of following the diocesan Human Resource process when informing staff members of the decision, acknowledging that these were painful decisions and have caused hurt throughout the parish.
- B. Who will fulfill the duties of the Pastoral Associate?  
The Pastoral Associate is involved in many programs/services throughout the parish. We will have to work through covering these duties and services a day at a time.
- C. The Finance Committee recommends the annual budget. Shouldn't they have been part of the decision-making process?  
Ultimately, these decisions fall to the pastor, and it is important to note that any staffing discussions are sensitive and difficult to have in a committee setting.
- D. Could we have a Capital Fundraising Campaign to support the parish budget?  
That is a good suggestion for future planning purposes.
- E. Members of the Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary offered their support to Father Peter and reminded him to call upon them as needed in the future.

Closing Prayer: Mary Ann Borrelli

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm

Respectfully submitted - Vernon Connors, Recording Secretary

Next meeting: December 14, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the St. John the Evangelist Church Hall