



Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Father Peter Grace, CP
Monday, January 10, 2022

Members: Father Peter Grace, Karen Blair, Laci Conrad, Francisco Cucue-Campos, Martin Dramou, Mike Ellison, Hatciri Lopez, George Lozano, Marco Maya, Anne Miller, Catherine Orji, Dean Penny, Kevin Pilotte, Yolanda Sanchez, Stephanie Satkowiak, Ruth Silva, Sean Skelly, Jon Soika

Youth Members: Melina Hernandez-Campos, Ashley Ramirez

Recording Secretary:

Members Excused: Laci Conrad, Sean Skelly

Members Absent: Melina Hernandez-Campos, Ashley Ramirez

Opening Prayer: Marco Maya

Guests: none

**Approval of
November 2021
Minutes:**

Mike Ellison made a motion to approve; Catherine seconded the motion; all approved.

Youth Report:

Youth representatives were not present; Fr. Peter reported on the NCYC trip to Indianapolis, noting that it was a great experience for the young people (good presentations and testimonials), and it encouraged them in their spiritual journey to see so many Catholic youth from all around the country there - approximately ten thousand. About 125 attended from our Diocese; approximately 20 from St. Ann (including chaperones); ours was the largest delegation from the Diocese of Raleigh. Another conference is planned for November in Los Angeles. All costs were paid from proceeds of our youth's fundraising efforts.

Development & Communication Updates:

Diocelin and Frank will attend the February meeting to provide updates.

Finance/Building

Committee Updates: Dean Penny

- Detailed Stewardship Report is attached. Note: summary is thru November not December. Finance Committee is scheduled to meet later this week. Updated information will be published in the bulletin and on the parish website afterwards.

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- Operating expenses are below budget; increased offertory has had some positive impact and we are in a good cash flow position with no assistance from the federal government this year; however, we are getting assistance from the Diocese: interest rate on our loan was reduced to 0% for a portion of the loan, which increases our cash flow by about \$15,000 monthly.
- Non-operating expenses are above budget at present due primarily to outlays for the columbarium. Finance Committee is keeping an eye on cash flow; no concerns at present.
- **Columbarium:** footings are going in now; hope to finish this week. Masonry work on perimeter wall, scripture & fountain walls should be done next week. Niche units are being manufactured and delivery is expected in March. We are still targeting late March completion. 66 niches sold to date. Prices will increase upon completion.
 - * Stephanie: very pleased and impressed by concept and plan to maintain attractive appearance; asked how many niches will be in the cruciform. Response: 350; may or may not be fully sold before we purchase surrounding curved units – depends on cash flow. Approx. \$280-\$300k for cruciform; about \$150k for each arched unit. About 1100 more niches in arched units. 15% of purchase of each niche goes into fund for perpetual care. Sponsorship & memorial opportunities available – plaque for \$1500 (3 of 84 sold); benches, artwork, cross, etc. See Dean if interested.
- **Storage building:** zoning permit has been obtained; also approval from Diocese on design subject to a couple tweaks. Application for building permit has been submitted. Pouring of slab and tree removal are in progress. Finance Council will focus on expenses for the storage building after the columbarium.
- **Parish Center Speakers:** price quote obtained was outrageous; Nick Petro found alternate solution at much lower cost. Installation has begun and adjustments are being made with a mixer board; should be ready within a few weeks. Projector works OK at night; not bright enough during the day. Will replace current screen and TVs with a TV video wall – hopefully in about 3 weeks. Will need to train those who will be using it.
- **Projectors in Church:** signed contract to put 2 projectors in church (vs. TV screens so not visible when not in use); outlets already in place. Expected in Feb.
- **Land:** 65 acres adjacent. Dean and his business partner have it under contract; closing to be later this month. Intent is to develop but carve out 10-15 acres to be donated to the church; working on various master plan concepts.
 - * Jon: county-wide issue w/water & sewer? Dean responded that Johnston County sewer capacity is limited so it is difficult to get housing development approved but industrial ok, although not desirable from our perspective to be surrounded by industrial properties. Hoping to get that property and existing church property annexed to Town of Smithfield which would be better for sewerage, etc.

New Business:

- **Bereavement ministry** – Stephanie Satkowiak

Learned about a grief share ministry that her mother recently benefited from: Surviving the Holidays. It is a Stephen Ministry – Christian organization – trained to provide grief counseling and other services for pastors & parishioners. Support group for people at all stages of loss. Wondering if St. Ann would consider offering. Could be helpful to other parishioners/ministries that are providing outreach. Dean asked if it is proactive or reactive; Stephanie responded that it can be either; meetings are held weekly; participants can attend as desired/needed. No cost to participate. Karen asked if it is non-denominational or if there are doctrinal aspects. Mike commented that grief is universal.



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Stephanie indicated there are resources for all Christian denominations. Deacon Ken has something similar started; Stephanie will connect with him on this. Jon noted that bereavement has been discussed previously; the ministry has declined at St. Ann due to Covid, but recommended that we assess whether we're meeting the current need. Fr. Peter will suggest to Deacon Ken that we rekindle our ministry. Dean noted that it will be important to have both English & Spanish coordinators.

- **PC Elections:**

Several members' terms will expire in June – both appointed & elected. Jon reviewed the by-laws relative to re-election/re-appointment.

- Responsibilities of Nomination Committee (3-5 appointed by Chair & Pastor):

- Announcement requesting self-nomination
- Encourage parishioners to self-nominate
- Work w/pastor to schedule May weekend for election
- Prepare/disseminate candidate info
- Assist at masses
- Counting ballots

Hatciri, Yolanda, Catherine and Kevin indicated they may be willing to serve on the Nomination Committee. This discussion will continue at the February meeting.

Remarks from the

Pastor:

Father Peter

- Thanks to Kevin for arranging the Safety symposium although this had to be postponed.
- Thanks to Francisco for painting and touch-ups in all buildings. Francisco noted that we still need to deal with cracks, mildew, etc. in all buildings. It will be necessary to caulk before power washing. Suggested work be done after Easter/pollen season; lift will be needed; work will take about a week to complete. Kevin and Dean noted one of the doors between the narthex and church is sticking.
- You can now hear Mass within about a mile of the church on 87.7 FM thanks to Nick Petro. Looking into radios for people who are hard-of-hearing.
- Regarding the concerns expressed by a parishioner in November of the 7 AM and 7 PM Sunday Masses missing out on fundraising and other post-Mass activities/events: We need all the Masses to accommodate all who attend: 85 people at 7 pm Sunday Mass and about the same at 7 am Sunday. Problem is staffing/volunteers at all Masses; ministries are doing their best with available resources and will be encouraged to be present at all Masses whenever possible.
- Do not record our PC discussions without informing people at this meeting. Meetings are public but it is illegal to record without informing those in attendance.
- Synod (walking together). Held regularly throughout the church worldwide. Usually consists of a select group of bishops meeting in Rome; Pope Francis is seeking to engage both active and inactive Catholics. All are encouraged to take the questionnaire online. There will also be in-person groups; would like to do some here at St. Ann, similar to those held to address sex abuse by clergy. Patrick has been asked to help coordinate; seeking others. Martin & Hatciri are interested in helping/joining Committee. Martin noted that there are group meetings every other

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week to talk about various topics. Will share information from past discussions. Hatciri noted that coffee nights held with Fr. Peter and Fr. Hector were very successful.

- Passionist meeting on 1/25: Fr. Peter and Fr. Gaston will participate virtually. Purpose is to better understand the Passionist mission in our area.
- Priests of diocese will meet in February: planning topics e.g. new parishes, etc.
- Not much staff training has been done. Carmen has worked at the parish for 10 years; Sandy 5+ years. Passionists in Mexico are hoping to send a priest & seminarian to St. Ann; we are planning to send a few staff (3 or 4) to Mexico for a training conference, no date set yet. Purpose is to develop stronger relationships with the priests there and get training on culture, history and spirituality/religion.
- Fr. Peter celebrates his 50th anniversary in May; Frank is getting married in Nicaragua in June; parish novena in July.
- New charter school being built just east of St. Ann across the road. Started by a Utah politician who has done charter schools in AZ – almost like a franchise; Fr. Peter plans to talk to the Bishop about that (i.e., Catholics attending private schools). He's not sure what this will mean to our community. Lots of new learning options are emerging since Covid. Would be good to have a group here at St. Ann to talk about education. Mike noted that John Pendergrass from the Diocese is willing to come out and talk to folks here. Information about private/Catholic schools was noted in previous minutes. Fr. Peter thinks discussion within our parish should occur. Opinions vary about quality of education obtained at charter schools.
- Lupe will be working with Stephanie regarding placement of domestic violence posters in our buildings.
- Still seeking someone other than Laci to be recording secretary. Please let Father know if you can suggest someone who might be a good candidate.

New Items:

- Marco: has to resign from Council; leaving the area by end of March. Moving to Florida. Will be excused from February meeting. George will let Hispanic ministries know.
- Ruth: thanks to all for migrant workers' Christmas get together (Francisco & Fr. Peter). The worker who was seriously injured after being run over by a truck is improving. He had another surgery but is now out of hospital – moved to rehab center; learning to walk again.
- George: Roof leak has been examined and holes patched; looking at water pipes that might be causing problem.
- Martin: place in Africa where a young man (Ben Gobou Yaza) who wanted to become Catholic was killed by family and community members to prevent his conversion to Christianity; has become a shrine and in process of seeking canonization. Thousands of people go 2nd week of January every year; let Martin know if anyone wants to visit or offer financial contributions.

Closing Prayer: Father Peter

Next meeting is Monday, February 14th at 7 PM

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Miller