



## St. James Parish Pastoral Council Minutes from September- November 2016

- Fr. Martin
- Fr. Shayne
- Sister Marie Hannah
- Mike Biggs: Chair, Vision 2020
- Ron Bryan: Social Concerns
- Bill Clark: Finance and Administration
- Geoff Clark: Parish Voice
- Lou Edmondson: Chair, Saint James Parish Pastoral Council
- Paula Knowles: Stewardship
- Jeff Lanz: Worship
- Jennifer Moran: Director of Mission Advancement
- Coty Oropilla: School Board-Parish Liaison
- Cheri Ellis-Reeves, Secretary, Saint James Parish Pastoral Council
- Stacia Reynolds: Parish Life
- Val Stokan: Faith Formation

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Father Martin began each meeting with a scripture reading and time for reflection.

### Topics

Father asked: “Why we are here to serve?” He told us of the beloved St. Pedro Povedo Castroverde. His presence is powerfully felt during his time on earth as well as now. Father Martin has four medallions that he leaves with people who need healing and Father Martin asked that they give them back once they are healed. St. Padre Pio for living a devout life, His message: Pray, Hope, Don't Worry.

**Faith Formation.** Val Stokan asked what can we do about the budget? Mike Biggs said the budget is fine. Breaking the ground on the convent soon before the first of the year. We need to pay on the principal and interest 7.4 million. \$34,000.00 monthly we have 6 months to do this. How do we communicate and help understand the distinction that the school and convent bring and ask for help? An update: There are three local bids on construction of the convent. Bids are due back by Nov. 16. Father is confident the bids will be more aligned with the initial cost estimate.

**Finance and Administration.** Bill Clark gave the Council an overview of the “state of the parish budget.” The council learned that the budget focuses on three critical areas: operating, the convent and the school debt. Each financial area is separate. Bill’s presentation shed light on how we are doing fiscally as a parish. He and others will share more information on November 17 with Pizza with the Pastor.

**Parish Voice** – Geoff Clark said this committee is still in the formation process. The overall focus and goal is the creation of a venue where parishioners can share concerns, offer ideas and be closely aligned with the voices of our parishioners. Geoff is looking for outgoing and diversified individuals. Geoff will speak more on Parish Voice at the November 17 Pizza with the Pastor meeting as well as the follow-on Parish Listening Sessions. Parish Voice was recently highlighted in the Parish Bulletin. Going forward the Council will spotlight a committee so that all parishioners remain well informed about the Parish Council of which parishioners are such a vital part.



**School Board Liaison** – Coty Oropilla has attended each SJS board meeting. Sister spoke about mission statement and the reason we do this work... be disciples, evangelize to others, foster love, enter young adulthood. At the SJS-PTO September meeting Jackie Board said chocolate sales raised over \$20,000.00, magazine sales were not as productive as past years. Fall Festival brought in around \$31,000.00. The feedback was positive. There are plans for a men's retreat in March 2017 with a possible women's retreat in fall 2017. The school board also talked about safety on school campus, updating policy handbook and reviewing accreditation.

**Social Concerns** –Ron Bryan. The chairs of his committees agreed to meet in person three times a year and correspond by email for the balance of 2016. Ron asked the chairs what works well, what needs improvement keeping in mind that the nature of Social Concerns is helping those in need. They talked about a retreat within the group to help solve issues.

Respect Life issues are more than abortions. There was a conference held in Louisville on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mimi Pike said Room at the Inn would be on Wednesday evenings December thru February. The meal that was served at Warm Blessings will not be served before they come to St. James. Joyce Solar oversees Red Cross Bloodmobile. Joyce said more advertising about the bloodmobile is needed. Jennifer said she would work on that. Lois Shinkle reported about the Haiti Committee. She said membership needs more men. The yard sale falls on Crusin in the Heartland weekend. This committee wants it to stay on that weekend. They have storage space donated, it is appreciated but would like to have more space that is climate controlled.

The jail ministry needs more volunteers especially now both a man and a woman are required during a visitation. Father Martin said that Margaret Polin does this very well, that it's not easy to go. Val suggested that the ACTS might be able to help with this ministry and with the sick and homebound receiving the Eucharist.

Ron wanted parishioners to be clear that the St. Vincent DePaul Store and St. Vincent DePaul store are not the same. The need to differentiate between the two is needed. St. Vincent DePaul store generates about \$1200.00 monthly in revenue to St. Vincent DePaul ministry that helps with needs of individuals and families.

Ron said the theme across the board is communication is needed. The credibility of the pastoral council needs to be transparent. One other thing is that if people sign up on stewardship they need to show up. One of the remarks from parishioners is they sign up but don't hear back from committee chair. The Council will address this.

**Stewardship:** Paula Knowles talked about social events. Betty Sue French oversees the Welcoming Committee and does a fantastic job. Peggy Snow was also at the meeting representing coffee and donuts. Linda Bacher said that comments from some who have meals served after funerals would like more finger type foods. The committee wants to select the menu that is served at functions. They didn't want to be told what is to be served, example BBQ that was requested for Father's meal when he left.

**Worship Committee** – Jeff Lanz said we are all here for the same reason – Praise God. That's the best we can do. Lou said she is looking for high school or college aged parishioners to lector. This will be excellent example for children to see. To date, two high schools students are now lecturing and doing a wonderful job.



### **Other Discussion Topics.**

**Invitation to Father Martin.** The Chief of Elizabethtown Police Department, Community action team invited Fr. Martin to become a member. This committee has seven people on it to promote - Live together in Peace. Father Martin gladly accepted the invitation.

**Parish Pastoral Council Email.** Sister's suggestion that the Parish Pastoral Council have an email so parishioners can address concerns and provide recommendations is acted upon, parishcouncil@stjameschool Lou Edmondson oversees the emails and directs them to the appropriate Parish Council.

**Parish Council Priorities** – Lou Edmondson said that the council works well together and asked that we meet monthly while we are forming council priorities. We have good energy and positive attitudes. The Council agreed. Priorities at this point budget, open communication and day-to-day ministry.

### **Pizza with the Pastor. To overview the meeting.**

A main focus for this meeting is “About Where We Are as a Parish” today. Parish Council members stand as Father introduces us. Lou Edmondson will speak to the Listening Sessions to include the purpose, forum, and dates. Geoff Clark will describe Parish Voice in more detail and the need to get team members.

Each table will have index cards on which those attending will write concerns, clarifications, and ideas. Jennifer Moran will collect those and respond using the following venues: FAQ, Bulletin, Email blasts. People will be contacted individually if they so indicate on the card.

So that all parishioners are heard and involved, there will be two Listening Sessions shortly following Pizza with the Pastor. The focus of the Listening Sessions is on the future...“Where Are We Going? What does St. James look like in 2027?”

### **Listening Session Dates and Locations.**

**Thursday, Dec. 1. 7:00-8:30pm. Rodney Thomas Room**

**Saturday, Dec. 3, 9:00-10:30am – Rodney Thomas Room**

**The Archdiocese of Louisville** will NOT hold a capital campaign this year. That said, there are several parishes, ours included, that have major initiatives underway. The Archbishop has invited those parish priests to participate in an ongoing forum, beginning Dec. 1. This forum will focus on how parishes will raise funds, in our case the school debt. The overall purpose is to learn what others are doing in this endeavor.

**Staff Changes.** Staff changes are common with new leadership. No one was fired. Father said they have hired Lauren Overstreet began as a new staff member on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Her main role is cleaning up and updating the database. Lauren will help take care of website and introduce social media connecting with Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.