

St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Pastoral Council Minutes  
Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 7:00 PM

Location: Room B

Minutes: Marianne Hird

Start time: 7:05 pm

End time: 8:40 pm

**Present:** Susan Aloisio, Tim Carter, Eimee Donbar, Chris Homan, Bartley Jutze, Jodi Kastner, Kelly Kramer, Fr. George Kunkel, Jennifer Powers, Jack Schwein, Alice Schneider, Tom Shoop

**Not Present:** Toby Matson, Bill Mountel

**Invited guests:** Maria Barrett, SVF Stewardship Commission

### Opening Prayer

Reading, Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21 - *Chris Homan*

Group reflection - *All*

### Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the November 2015 meeting minutes was made by Alice Schneider and seconded by Kelly Kramer. The November 2015 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

### New Business

#### 1. Presentation by invited Stewardship Commission guests – *Maria Barrett, Susan Aloisio*

Maria Barrett read the Mission Statement of the Stewardship Commission:

“Our mission is to nurture stewardship in the St Vincent Ferrer parish as a grateful response to God’s calling to be Disciples of Christ and to care for His Church. We work to understand stewardship as a way of life, and to extend its practice throughout the parish.”

#### Background:

Stewardship currently has nine members, each of them serving staggered 3-year terms. Creation of the Stewardship Commission evolved from an earlier ad hoc committee appointed to explore the possibility of using a consultant to conduct an Offering Campaign at SVF. After exploring various options and approaches and taking into consideration the precepts of the 1992 U.S. Bishop’s Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, “Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response,” the decision was made to contract with Catholic Stewardship Consultants (CSC). We are currently still working with CSC.

#### Stewardship and what we have accomplished:

Susan went on to explain that stewardship is not just about fundraising but rather is a way of life that strives to engage parishioners in parish life and to manage and protect the church community entrusted to them. Some of the commission’s accomplishments that have been implemented over the past 18 months include: faith formation related to the study of the Bishop’s Pastoral Letter and the Pillars of Stewardship; organizing parish leadership retreats; roll out of new format for parish monthly newsletter; and new stewardship renewal process.

#### 2. Mustard Seed Committed report – *Jodi Kastner*

The need for creating this committee was established and the members were identified at the NOV 18, 2015 PPC meeting. Committee members met on NOV 23, NOV 29 and DEC 2, 2015. Their objectives were to identify the short and long term goals of SVF Parish in light of its current financial state. The outcome of these meetings was a plan to communicate this information to the parish community. As a group, they crafted a message to convey to the parish the status of its financial health and propose these goals in the context of that financial information. Subsequently, a “state of the Parish” talk was delivered by the Mustard Seed members, Building and Finance and members of the Parish Pastoral Council at all Masses the weekend of DEC 5-6, 2015. Members of these groups

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were available following each Mass that weekend to field questions, collect comments and reactions to the information presented. Based on the feedback received via these conversations, it seems that the message was well received and has generated momentum. There has been an increase in giving to the parish since the information was presented; however, it's not yet possible to know if this represents a commitment to sustained giving or is related to other random causes (end of year giving, one time response to the talk, etc.). As follow-up to the message delivered in December, Fr. George addressed the parish at all Masses the weekend of JAN 16-17. He sincerely thanked the parish for their generosity in giving but cautioned that this does not by any means indicate the parish financial state is secure going forward. He emphasized the importance of sustained giving if we hope to attain financial stability.

Parishioners can share their thoughts at a scheduled monthly PPC meeting. Any parishioner wishing to do so should contact a PPC member with a request to be placed on an upcoming meeting agenda.

**3. Marketing Committee report – Jodi Kastner**

- Postcards were mailed out to 3,000 homes in local zip code areas.
- The St. Vincent Ferrer School Facebook page and parish website have recently been updated. There will be a full page layout in the Catholic Telegraph advertising Catholic Schools Week. SVF School will be included in the schools featured in this ad.
- A School Coffee is scheduled for JAN 15 for potential families to learn about SVF.
- Yard signs will be placed to advertise the SVF School Open House.
- SVF parish upcoming events such as the Spaghetti Dinner and School Open House will be mentioned in the St. Savior bulletin.

**4. December 10, 2015 Letter from SVF School faculty and staff – Fr. George**

Fr. George thanked the School faculty and staff for the letter they sent expressing their genuine appreciation for all the efforts undertaken by the PPC and Building and Finance that demonstrate a continued commitment to Catholic education.

**5. Announcements – Fr. George**

- a. Annual PTO Spaghetti Dinner, Friday, FEB 5, 2016
- b. Catholic Schools Week Observance – week of JAN 31 beginning with SVF School Open House, Sunday JAN 31, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- c. Adult Faith Formation presentation by Scott Stephens of Catholic Charities, “Hunger in Ohio”: Thursday FEB 18, 7:00 pm, Hamilton Hall
- d. Lenten Events – See Worship Commission update
- e. Invited guests for FEB PPC meeting:
  - Mrs. Kim Roy, SVF School Principal
  - Cindy Hardesty, Archdiocesan School Office, Regional Director
  - Wayne Morse, Archdiocesan School Office, Associate Director of School Strategic Planning

**Old Business**

None.

**Commission Updates**

**1. Athletic Commission – Tim Carter**

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- Lenten Fish Fries begin the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in Lent and continue for the next 4 Fridays. See the bulletin for dates and some exciting new menu options.
- Boys' basketball and Girls' volleyball seasons are underway. The inaugural year under the GCCY seems to be working well.

**2. Building and Finance Commission – Bartley Jutze**

Some of the highlights reported for the 6 months ending DEC 31, 2015:

- Sunday contributions have increased slightly
- The full year projection increased by approximately \$20,000 due to Christmas collection (\$16,500) and debt reduction donations were both higher than budgeted
- Church boiler expense of \$11,000 was incurred in DEC 2015
- \$35,000 of the \$49,000 Archdiocesan assessment was paid (this means that interest is incurring on the unpaid portion)

Other finance-related information:

- SVF is anticipating the \$60,000 from the One Faith, One Hope, One Love Campaign (this money has already been factored into the operating budget)
- Repair to the church bells was covered with an anonymous donation of \$5,000
- The hallways in the Parish Center and School buildings were recently given a fresh coat of paint thanks to a project undertaken by some of our Eagle Scouts
- A suggestion was made to send a mid-year reminder letter to all parishioners, reminding them of their pledge and giving to date
- A Preliminary 2016-2017 Budget will be presented at the FEB meeting
- Some church giving information:
  - 32% of *all* school families and 68% of *parishioner* school families contribute to church collections
  - 70% of church collections are contributed by 35-40% of the parish families

**3. Education Commission – Kelly Kramer**

- Early Childhood Religious Education (ECRE) has 11 students, ages 3-5 years. One of the 11 is a perspective SVF kindergarten student.
- Beth Himes is conducting a class, "Introduction to the Bible." The class will meet in Hamilton Hall on Thursdays evenings, JAN 14 – FEB 11.
- Approximately 20 people attended the Lecture on Pope Francis on NOV 5
- Donations to the food and toy collection were lower than expected this year. The group discussed potential causes and ways to increase the response for future collections.
- SVF School has filed its Emergency Operations Plan with the State
- SVF School was awarded a grant for the purchase and installation of a new front entrance security system
- The Education Commission's constitution has been finalized and approved
- There was a discussion of possible reasons for the decrease in the number of kindergarten students that transition to 1<sup>st</sup> grade at SVF
- SVF School Principal, Kim Roy, spoke at weekend Masses to introduce the proposal of operating a pre-school at SVF. An architectural rendering of the class layout was available for viewing in the back of the church. One of the goals of establishing a pre-school at SVF is to increase school enrollment for grades K-8.

**4. Festival – Jenny Powers**

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A notice has been in the Sunday bulletin to solicit a new chairperson for this important parish event. Jenny and Jodi Kastner currently serve as co-chairs and both will be “retiring” from their positions this year.

**5. Parish Life – Chris Homan**

- The Turkey and Meatball Ministry had a successful year partnering with St. John’s to serve Our Daily Bread.
- Chris is looking for ideas or suggestions to re-energize the Parish Life commission. The purpose of Parish Life overlaps with some of the objectives of Stewardship and perhaps this needs to be taken into consideration.

**6. Stewardship – Susan Aloisio**

- The 2015 Stewardship Renewal report should soon be available from CSC. CSC and Stewardship Commission were both pleased with the response to the 2015 Renewal.
- The Stewardship Mission Statement was finalized. See New Business, item 1.
- Sharing the Stewardship message with other parish commissions has commenced. Each parish commission will be visited 3 times by Stewardship representatives.
- Catholic Stewardship Conference will be held on APR 20-21 in Wichita.

**7. Worship – Susan Aloisio**

- Susan thanked the Art and Environment committee and all the liturgical ministers for their contribution of time and effort to the holiday liturgies.
- Lenten Activities:
  - Stations of the Cross: Fridays during Lent, 7:00 pm in church
  - Evensong in the chapel on the following Wednesdays: FEB 17 & 24, MAR 9 & 16
  - Rite of Sending Forth and Election: Sunday, FEB 14
  - Parish Mission sponsored by SVF and All Saints will feature guest speaker, Eric Hollis. Dates and locations as follows: FEB 29 at SVF; MAR 1 & 2 at All Saints. See the bulletin for details.
  - Lenten Reconciliation: Monday, MAR 7
- Art and Environment is still seeking a chairperson to replace outgoing Chair, Mary Joseph.

**Action Items**

Item	Responsible Party	Status	Completion Date
Notify PPC Members of FEB 24 <sup>th</sup> meeting time change	M. Hird	Complete	FEB 22, 2016

**The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 7:30 pm Room B, immediately following Evensong.**