



The 2022 Annual Report for the Community of Saint Peter

Board President's Report

2022 was another gifted year for the Community of St. Peter. We have so many reasons to be grateful – our founders, our servant-leader staff, our engaged membership, our liturgies, our outreach generosity and so much more.

Like most organizations, we rise to the occasion and put our best foot forward when we present ourselves outward. During 2022, the Search Committee put together a profile of the Community and the pastor-administrator that we hoped to find. While that search was later discontinued for a time, the posting about our search that was on the website for a few months was a description of a twelve-year journey that we can be proud of.

- Our congregation has weathered the pandemic and we are 'back' and hopefully growing again.
- We continue our work "Preserving and Renewing a Living Tradition." To me that means that we celebrate the liturgy in a traditional and meaningful way with first-class music.
- We continue our journey of companionship with our neighbors as well as refugees coming to Cleveland.
- We continue to learn about our faith – its history and the challenges of living it today.
- Members continue to contribute financially – to the point where we can take care of our own needs and have choices about how to help others.

I saw this same 'best foot forward' recently when several CSP members answered questions raised by a community in Columbus, OH that had their worship at the OSU Newman Center closed. We were able to offer the hope that there is life beyond institutional structures.

Shortly before Historic St. Peter Parish was closed, Bishop Pilla celebrated liturgy with us and said something like: "You are good people. Don't let anyone tell you different." I believe that is as true today as it was then. We are indeed good people – supportive of one another and generous toward the marginalized in so many ways. No, we don't always agree. During the past year we have had differing views on a variety of matters – Community finances and the best way to handle them in light of our Mission. Yes, we sometimes bury our differences rather than talking them through and reaching a consensus. At times we are more comfortable with those we know than we are reaching out to the newcomer. But overall, we try to listen to the Word and live the Eucharist we celebrate.

2022 was my third and last year as CSP Board President. I am so grateful for the support the Board and committee members gave me and their diligent work on behalf of the Community. The talents that members offer so freely to the Community are awesome. I am very pleased that Louise Prochaska has taken the helm as Board President and know, with confidence, that she will receive support from Board members and from the Community at large.

2023 promises to be a year of hope as we once again embark on a search for our next pastor-administrator. What I believe to my core is that all of us contribute best to the Community when we attend to our own personal spiritual growth and bring the fruits of the Spirit to our life together.

A grateful Joe Konen

Social Justice Committee

Mission statement: Social Justice flows from the Eucharist which, as celebrated by the Community of Saint Peter, teaches us about the dignity of all creation, calls us to mutual relationships, invites us to solidarity, and sends us on a mission to listen to and accompany the vulnerable and marginalized in Greater Cleveland and beyond.

Current Members: Jan Bell, Joyce Conway, Mike Coughlin, Megan Dull and, Susi Kawolics, Bob Kloos, Martha Ligas, Charles Malemud, Barbara O'Connor, and Diane Pinchot osu (coordinator); Consultants on issues of death penalty, fair trade, and human trafficking: Connie Herron, Patrick O'Connor, Judy Pestak, Maryann Picard, and HFLA small group: Paula Campbell, Mark Davis, and Diane Pinchot osu.

Actions: We awarded four grants for \$3,000 each to: The Identification Crisis Collaborative of Cleveland, Cleveland Catholic Worker, Bessie's Angels, and The Tandana Foundation in Bandiagara District, Mali. Since these awards, the Board approved our budget specifically to increase the grant amount to \$4,000. CSP also received an anonymous donation which increased the grant amount to \$5,000 for 2023.

The proposal the Finance Committee requested – for ideas on how we can best serve our mission statement with the use of a small portion of our reserved funds – was approved in its first stage. We will donate \$5,000 to HFLA and form a small group of CSP members to partner with the HFLA's organization and begin to listen to the needs of our neighbors in Hough, Fairfax, and Midtown, thus beginning to form relationships in these areas. This proposal is/has been evolving through discussions at board meetings, SJ committee meetings, two community invitations concerning our finances and presenter Carrie Miller from HFLA, along with the CSP community newsletter where the proposal was shared in its entirety.



Imam Shafeeq Sabir at Teatime for Peace

The Teatime for Peace Event became a reality after the delay from the COVID virus, and a follow-up meeting was formed with the purpose of getting to know our Muslim neighbors and ways in which we can work together.

The Fair-Trade sale expanded in its third year with the addition of Esperanza Threads products, and a table with information along with a representative from the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking. Every year this event has grown in sales, reminding us about the issues of fair labor practices and the dignity of human rights.

The MLK annual panel this year focused on Arthur Tyler's unjust incarceration on Death Row (now awaiting parole) and ways we can work to bring an end to the death penalty on both the state and federal levels as well as advocating for peace and restorative justice personally, locally, and globally. As a community we recited the Artisan's for Peace Pledge together after liturgy to remind us of actions we can take every day to continue in our efforts to become people of peace and non-violence.

Diane Pinchot osu, Chair



Arthur Tyler's sister, Francine Hawkins, addresses the assembly while Maryann Picard and Patrick O'Connor look on.

Education Committee

We believe that growing in faith is more productive, stimulating, and fun when we learn together. Each year, the committee develops a series of speakers who explore topics that address a broad array of timely and challenging subjects, ranging from scripture and liturgy, social justice and ethics, religious history and aesthetics, spirituality, to the study of the world's great Christian and other faith traditions. Above all, we seek original thinkers who challenge us, who know how to engage an audience of lively listeners.

One of the most memorable program offerings in 2022 was the Lenten Day of Reflection held at Dunham Tavern. Kathy Coffey, writer, educator, and retreat leader, led us in discussing "Hidden in the Gospel." She encouraged us to use our imagination when reading scripture. This idea inspired Tony and Mimi Felice to offer an exceptional homily about the disciples who travelled to Emmaus (The Second Sunday of Easter - April 24, 2022). Additionally, we had another seven presentations during the year, three of which were the result of ideas submitted by Community members. For 2023, we have three programs slated and a list of possible speakers to contact for further scheduling.



Kathy Coffey led an animated day

Committee members include Connie Herron, Bob Kloos, Martha Ligas, Tim O'Brien, Maureen Pergola, Mark Pestak, and Patrick O'Connor, Chair.

Liturgical Life Committee



Taizé Prayer Service in Advent

The Liturgical Life Committee serves as a conduit and sounding board for members of CSP. As such, it deals with mundane things such as the placement of chairs in the Gathering Area, and more complex issues such as the interaction between Liturgy and the spiritual needs of the Community.

The Committee was on hiatus during the height of the Covid pandemic when we live-streamed the Liturgy of the Word. We are now back, in person, but continue to live-stream the entire Liturgy for those who are unable to attend. Recruitment of Lectors, Acolytes, and Eucharistic Ministers is an ongoing challenge, but we have a core of people who are willing to step up and participate. We have had more success recruiting teams for hospitality, and that program is doing well.

After considerable discussion about the more hierarchical and patriarchal aspects of the liturgy, we have made several small but significant changes. For example, instead of saying "The Lord be with you" before the reading of the Gospel, our presider greets everyone with: "May the Christ be with you." We continue to use the Inclusive Bible which both the pastor and the Community prefer.

After a long search for the right presenter and with the gratitude of the Liturgical Life Committee, the Education Committee sponsored a talk on liturgy by Father Joe Fortuna. Father Fortuna discussed the Roman Liturgy and compared it to the Liturgy at the Community of St. Peter. His talk was excellent and thought-provoking and will lead to further discussions. The Liturgical Life Committee is planning one such discussion, which will be open to all members of the Community for Spring 2023. Members of the Liturgical Life Committee: Diane Ferguson, Roseann Kaminsky, Bob Kloos, Ed Progar, and Almuth Riggs, and

Joanne Mortimer, Chair

Finance Committee

Due to the increased generosity of the Community in the Fourth Quarter of 2022, collections and donations increased over 10% for the year.

In addition, the income generated by the Reserve Fund expanded almost 4% to over \$28,000. Expenses were, for the most part, held in check rising 2.25%. That being said, costs still exceeded collections by just over \$3,500. The resulting Net Operating loss for 2022 compared very favorably to that of 2021.

Due to the decline in the equity and bond market, the loss in value of the Reserve Fund was just over \$97,000. This total represents a decline of 7.69% versus a loss in the equity market of 18.11% and a 13.01% deficit in the bonds. The decline of the Reserve Fund brought the loss to over \$100,000 compared to a gain of over \$129,000 in 2021.

The financial position of CSP remains stable despite the 9.58% decline in Assets. The one issue that continues to plague the Community is the continued deterioration of the Cash position which suffered a decline of over 5% to \$124,426.

Tom O'Donnell, Board Treasurer and member of the Finance Committee

Community of Saint Peter

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2022

| | TOTAL | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | AS OF DEC 31, 2022 | AS OF DEC 31, 2021 (PY) |
| ASSETS | \$913,602.12 | \$1,010,345.80 |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | \$913,602.12 | \$1,010,345.80 |



Either end of our Lenten journey was “hands on” and memorable. Liturgy continues to be a central focus year to year.



Outreach to Refugees

The Community of St. Peter has had a long history of welcoming refugees to our city, working most closely with the Cleveland Field Office of USCRI (United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants). Since 2016 members have opened their hearts and rolled up their sleeves preparing homes for weary new arrivals. We cleaned, stocked cupboards, arranged furniture, and left stuffed animals on each child's bed. This process continues as needs arise. Outcomes of simple offerings can bring unexpected gifts, as by chance meetings, several members have enjoyed lasting relationships with families they have mentored, growing in friendship and love now as extended family.

USCRI's Resource Center grew from a few rooms filled with mostly unusable items into a fully functional, well-stocked donation operation center. After many months of exhaustive work by a group of CSP members, we provided "house kits" and household supplies for 375 refugees. The last large influx of Afghan refugees arrived mid-February 2022. The leadership baton was passed to Gloria Donnelly (former CSP member) and Bobbie



Mary Beth Manning dealing with silverware.

Reichtell. They, along with volunteers from our Community, have continued to maintain the USCRI Resource Center, servicing the needs of many Ukrainian, Afghan, and other refugees from around the world. The flow is continuous, and only with the constant support of volunteers and donations can these refugees be provided with the most basic needs to get started in their host country.

Georgette's Closet, an Afghan Clothing Boutique, was successful in providing hundreds of gifted outfits of traditional clothing to Afghan women. I continue distributing clothing to Afghan women by bringing selections into their homes, though this program is now in its final phase. I am grateful for the encouragement and donations from members who helped make this project a reality.

Meena's Bridge of Hope Outreach has been a lifeline for Meena and her family. Through the Community's generous financial support, she has been able to continue attending ESL classes two days a week at the Hope Center and when possible, additional ESL classes through USCRI. Her language skills have greatly improved, and she is ready for employment once her medical needs are fully addressed and childcare can be arranged. USCRI is currently job searching for a part time position for her.

The Bridge of Hope collection funds have paid Meena's rent for five months. Assistance with utility bills, as well as much needed food, toiletries, household items and clothing have all been purchased through the money and gift cards donated by generous Community members and others. Meena and her daughters are beyond grateful for the outpouring of support.

Darlene Davis, Coordinator



Kate Howley and Nancy Crow
in over their heads!

Pastoral Care of Community Members



Pastoral Care Ministry intentionally reaches out to Community members who are homebound or in a care facility with visits, companionship, and sharing communion from our Table. Covid precautions continued to restrict activity for most of 2022.

In early fall, we were glad to meet again and revitalize this ministry. We made phone calls to check in with more than twenty Community members we have missed from our gatherings. We reassured their connection to the Community, asked about specific needs, and invited them to the October 9th liturgy for the Anointing of the Sick. All were grateful for the contact and several members were able to attend the Anointing liturgy with transportation assistance.

Reminders are posted in the newsletter to keep in touch with cards and calls to homebound members. Jeanne Heffernan sends cards monthly on behalf of the Community.

Thanks to Pastoral Care Ministry members: Nancy Crow, Marie Dietrich, Jim Everett, Lynne Ford, Mary Gill, Jeanne Heffernan, Patrick Henry, Cindy Mihalek, Dorothy Valerian, Martha Ligas, Bob Kloos. New members and ideas are welcome as we look for ways to show our care and love for each other.

Dorothy Valerian, Chair

Climate Conversations Group

The Climate Conversations Group of the Community of St. Peter is made of Community members dedicated to learning about climate change, providing educational opportunities for CSP and the broader community, and engaging people of conscience in the interconnectedness and sacredness of the natural world and one another. Our mission statement is as follows:

“Guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to recognize and learn from the prophetic voices of our time in order to discern a path forward through the crisis of climate change. We hope to gain the wisdom to joyfully and humbly find balance of human endeavors within all Creation.”

Members of the Group include the following: Judy Comeau-Hart and Mary Kelsey, Co-Chairs, Joyce Conway, Mike Coughlin, Connie Herron, Bob Kloos/Pastor- Administrator, Joe Konen, Martha Ligas/Pastoral Minister, John Ludway, Julie and Charlie Michelson, Cindy Milhalek, Eileen Pappalardo, Diane Pinchot osu, Joanne Wagner, and Kathleen Webb.



Joanne Blazek enjoyed the “Braiding Sweetgrass” presentation by Joe Konen

The Group has two program tracks: 1) a zoom series of Community Discussions on Climate Change in partnership with the West Side neighborhoods in Ohio City, Detroit Shoreway, and Tremont; 2) a series of events held in person at CSP and via zoom examining the climate crisis from a faith perspective through listening to prophetic voices of various writers and speakers. This past year has been a time of formation and determining our mission. 2023 began with several Community-wide events.

Judy Comeau-Hart, Co-chair

From the Pastor/Administrator

This annual report is just a look back at highlights from the year 2022. Cumulatively, it is provided by the President of our board, the Chairs of our committees, and me, the pastor/administrator.

The past year has been an episode of discovery. Revelations might have begun with my beginning to reference the staff with the word “Team.” Nearly fifty years ago, when I was first ordained, I was assigned to a Lake County parish as a member of a “Pastoral Team.” It was a relatively new designation within the diocese, a model that invited members to participate as peers in determining a path forward. I enjoyed it. Mutual respect and shared responsibilities was the method, and it probably spoiled me in my early years. At CSP, we turned a corner with the “staff” in the fall of 2021, and by early ’22 the dynamic was sound, the trust was deep, and the atmosphere was joyful. The word “Team” just crept into the newsletter and reports to the board. It is a preferred model of leadership for a faith community like ours.

In the first part of the year nearly half the membership was engaged in the universal call by Pope Francis to help determine the future of the Church. While we did not participate in the diocesan program, we did explore resources, share hopes and dreams, meet to articulate our thoughts, and compose a letter that was posted to Rome. We participated in the worldwide Synod on Synodality with prayerful recollection complete with the fabrication of our own candle poured from dozens of tiny member vigils. It was enriching and full of hope.



Evening of Reconciliation

In March I flew a rainbow flag outside our door as a sign of our stated value of “Inclusivity.” I preached on our intention to be open and welcoming, and suggested we would be more faithful to our mission to accompany those on the margins if we were more public about our desire to be inclusive. “This morning is not a test of our values statement,” I stated, “but more a test of how each of us understands the words, the intent. Our intent, and our individual comfort.” We followed up with a roundtable discussion about our value and the flag and discovered there are many interpretations of inclusivity among the membership. Pastoral Associate Martha Ligas hosted “Drinks and Dreams: An Evening of Unabashed Brainstorming” in November to solicit candid comments about how we can “spread the message of who we are.” An initiative to grow our membership was emerging.



Bob, Christopher, Molly, Nate, and Martha

COVID curtailed several of our regularly scheduled opportunities for service in the City of Cleveland, and those venues have yet to resurface. But we have maintained our support of new arrivals through our partnership with the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. Members have donated goods and time and labor to prepare living quarters and establish a donation center for USCRI. The Community raised well over \$7,000 for a family of Afghani women who needed shelter and rent assistance till spring of 2023. We have discovered a fuller understanding of the gospel call to welcome the stranger and shelter the homeless.

Likewise, we began to explore opportunities to expand our reach to our neighbors north and south. One neighbor, in particular, hosted a “Teatime for Peace” experience that was memorable. The Masjid Bilal of Cleveland is located just a stone’s throw from our building. Our Muslim sisters and brothers were gracious in their welcome and we will be launching a Rust Belt Riders collaboration with them in the Spring of 2023.

Last May the Community celebrated the First Communion of three of our youngest members. Martha Ligas and I met with Molly, Nate, and Christopher and their families, in their homes, in anticipation of their joining us at our Table. Siblings were involved; we baked bread; the kids sent Christmas greetings to members of the Community; we prayed, we journaled, we sang, and we had fun. The celebration in our worship space was highlighted with a presentation of the Good Shepherd and the Lost Sheep (Luke 15). The First Communicants and their siblings used sock puppets for sheep to the delight of all present. When the lost sheep was returned to the flock, the others jumped for joy by tossing the socks into the air. We discovered new heights of joy in the telling of the good news.

Our choir has new members, and their harmonies evoke the best from the assembly. Our board and committees continue to address concerns and new initiatives. New faces arrive to see if they have found a faith community that both challenges and feeds them. Sunday liturgies, funeral celebrations, and our Taizé prayer experience have been nourishing and memorable. And members were particularly generous this past Christmas. Each in our own way, we endeavor to be faithful to our mission.

We continue to be a lay-governed faith community in the Catholic tradition that celebrates the contribution of all members, women and men, in all aspects of our liturgy and administration. We have an experience worth sharing. We trust that our witness in the year ahead will prompt seekers to “come and see” (John 1,39) in a manner that will help us grow while we “preserve and renew our living tradition.”

Bob Kloos, pastor/administrator

Nearly all the photos in this report are the work of our own Peggy Turbett.

Mission:

We are a Catholic community. Our sharing of the Eucharist and the Word challenges us to:
live the message of Jesus, love and respect all people, serve the poor, and work for peace and justice.

Values:

Liturgical Life: Worship is central to the life of our community and we dedicate our talents and resources to it.

Spiritual Development: The strength of our community is based on the spiritual vitality of our members.

Inclusivity: We are open and welcoming to all.

Education: We deepen our knowledge through the education of our members and the wider community.

The Arts: We promote and support creative artistic expression.

Commitment to the City: Our history and our presence in Cleveland call us to serve our neighbors in need.

Friendship: We value time together and promote bonds of personal support.

Collaboration and Partnering: We strive to cooperate with others to fulfill our mission.

Ecumenical and Inter-religious Dialogue: We honor the contributions of faith communities across our society and seek greater understanding and cooperation with them.



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“Preserving and renewing a living tradition.”
We celebrate Eucharist every Sunday at 11am.
“Come and see.” John 1, 39

