

Minutes, St. Dominic Pastoral Council
April 25, 2016

Present: Fr. Phil Reifenberg, Mary Karls, Don Holmes, Leo Schneider, Jane Kautzer, Jeanne Bitkers, Steve Straus, Ken Sedmak, Peter Bergman, Eileen Diener, Steve Scharrer

Unable To Attend: Jane Watry, Bill Linn, Maureen Stoelb, Roy Sellars

Guest: Beth Grebe

1. The opening prayer was led by Jane Kautzer.
2. There was no parishioner input at this meeting.
3. Fr. Phil did not give a report, other than some comments during the Finance Report.
4. It was decided that the Parish Assessment with Barb Vite will be held on Thursday, September 29. Finance Council, Prayer & Worship, Stewardship, and Pastoral Council members are all asked to attend this meeting. In addition, we are each asked to invite a younger parishioner to attend this meeting with us.
5. Council members were asked to volunteer to staff the First Weekend Social to be held on April 30/May 1, after all Masses.
6. Don Holmes gave a brief update on the Parish Elections process; there will be five candidates for four open positions on the Council.
7. Steve Straus gave the Finance Report. The March finance numbers were not available at the time of the Finance Council meeting. The preliminary budget for 2016/2017 shows a possible deficit of \$12,216; after revenue and expense adjustments. Further cost-cutting measures are being explored. Fr. Phil explained at this time that the Department of Labor has proposed changes in the income levels of exempt employees of non-profit organizations. This would affect all non-profit organizations, including us. These changes could have drastic effects on salaries and benefits paid by our parish. Some current "exempt" positions may need to be changed to hourly pay. Fr. Phil has staff closely tracking their work hours to see how these changes may affect St. Dominic Parish. Some staff may be asked to reduce the number of hours worked. These changes are scheduled to take effect after the Presidential Elections this fall and therefore are not included in the proposed budget.
8. Don Holmes and Jeanne Bitkers discussed the recent Deanery (District) meeting of Sheboygan and Fond du Lac county parishes. Pastoral Councils are encouraged to continue use of the Post-Synod newsletters and the discussion questions that are presented with them. Mass attendance across the Archdiocese is up about 1% this year. "Evangelization And The Sunday Mass" leadership gatherings will be held at the Cousins Center on Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1. Parish leaders and staff should plan on attending these events.

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9. Committee reports:
 - A. Evangelization – no report
 - B. Seton School – no report
 - C. Stewardship – The Committee is finalizing plans for the annual “Time and Talent” Survey, to be conducted on May 7 and 8. They are also putting the final touches on the parish census, are planning a parish golf outing and are talking about the possibility of doing a volunteer appreciation dinner.
 - D. Prayer & Worship – Volunteers are being sought to transport folks to and from Sunday Masses. The quilt project is moving forward, slowly. Sports games between Seton and FFP students have gone well and plans are being made to expand this program. The committee asks ushers to close the doors in the back of church during Mass to decrease distractions from the vestibule and is looking at improvements to the Family Room to give better sight-lines to the priest/altar. The next new member recognition will be held in June.
 - E. Human Concerns – no report
 - F. Cluster Planning – This group has determined a process for changing Mass times for the cluster when it becomes necessary to do so. Plans were discussed for further implementing the goals for the “Year of Mercy”. A pilgrimage is being planned to Holy Family Parish in Fond du Lac to visit the “Holy Door”; another is planned for May 18 to the “Our Lady of Good Help” shrine in Green Bay. The “24 Hours of Prayer” last year was very successful and will be repeated.
 - G. FFP – Plans are in place for the Mother’s Day cake sale. The committee is seeking methods to improve parent involvement as volunteers at FFP functions.

10. The Council went into joint session with the Holy Name/St. Clement Council and listened to a presentation on “Catholic ID” or “Intentional Discipleship”, given by Rich Harter, from the offices of the Archdiocese.

Our next Executive Committee meeting will be at 6:00 PM on Thursday, May 12.

Our next Council meeting will be on Monday, May 23, at 6:30 PM

The prayer leader will be Steve Scharrer.

Respectfully submitted: Leo Schneider