

Minutes, St. Dominic Pastoral Council
February 24, 2014

Present: Fr. Phil Reifenberg, Jeanne Bitkers, Kathy Pluskat, Leo Schneider, Mary Karls, Don Holmes, Maureen Stoelb, Steve Straus, Pam Duessing, Eileen Diener, Peter Bergman, Sue Sellars, Bill Thiele

Excused: Brett Goebel

Guests: Rosalie Dunn, Edie Morrison

1. The opening prayer was led by Peter Bergman.
2. In the Parishioner Input segment of our meeting, Rosalie Dunn spoke about bringing the annual Thanksgiving Day dinner back to St. Dominic Parish. This dinner had been held at other locations for the past several years after Rosalee had resigned as the director of the dinner. Due to apparent financial difficulties, the dinner was not put on in 2013. The most recent sponsoring group has returned the equipment loaned to them by St. Dominic Parish. Rosalie does not wish to chair the group but is willing to offer advice and guidance to whomever does bring back this worthwhile annual event. The Human Concerns Committee has been asked to assist with the start-up and implementation of the dinner.
3. In the pastor's report, Fr. Phil reports that Pastor Diane Loberger, of St. Peter Lutheran, has told her parishioners that her cancer has returned. We are asked to keep Pastor Diane and her parishioners in our prayers.
4. It is reported that one of our members, Carla Schommer, has resigned from the Council. Beth Grebe and Greg Spaeth are being considered to fill her unexpired term of office on the Council.
5. Edie Morrison gave a presentation on the activities and goals of the Faith Formation Committee. The Faith Formation Program is serving about 505 students in grades Pre-K through 12. There are 51 students in the First Eucharist program and also 51 students in the Confirmation program. The Program expects to serve about the same numbers of students next year. Besides tuition, the program is supported by donations, fund raisers, and tuition assistance from St. Vincent de Paul. Due to the numbers of students and the need to split several large classes, all available classrooms and space in the school building are utilized for the program. Program needs include a new, sound-proof, divider curtain for the school basement room, several new smart boards for classrooms, a laptop computer, and funds to spruce up classrooms and other spaces.
6. Steve Straus gave the Finance Council report. Income continues to fall much below budget expectations and is no longer offset by similarly low expenses. Of special note will be increased utility and maintenance costs due to the extreme weather this winter. A required review of our Parish financial operations revealed several areas where changes in accounting practices need to be made. The Finance Council is working to implement these changes. They are also gathering information to develop the Parish operating budget for the 2014 - 2015 fiscal year. The budget process needs to be completed in May.

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7. Kathy Pluskat gave a brief overview of the District 9 Synod Gathering held at St. Dominic's on February 22. Discussion at this Gathering included ideas presented at the parish sessions last fall and also brain-storming to discover ways of improving the church in eight mission areas: Evangelization, Stewardship, Catholic Social Teaching, Cultural Diversity, Leadership, Formation, Liturgy, and marriage & Family. The ideas, results and conclusions reached during this meeting will be carried o the full Synod Gathering in June.
8. Other Committee reports:
 - Prayer & Worship - no report
 - Human Concerns - We will be making donations to Project Rice Bowl during Lent.
 - Faith Formation - Children's Mardi gras will be held on March 4.
 - Stewardship - The parish Directory required some revisions, the expected delivery date is now Easter.
 - Evangelization - This committee expects to host a session later in the year titled "Called and Gifted". There will also be a Lenten program, "Conversion"; please refer to the bulletin for details.
 - School - their annual fundraising event, the "Mane Event" will be held on March 1.
9. Council Goals:
 - Peter Bergman is working with staff to improve our parish web site.
 - The Council discussed the structure of a new parish Worship Committee. Points to consider are:
 - A. who leads the committee, a parish member or a staff person?
 - B. how do we attract members to the committee?
 - C. how does the committee communicate with sub-groups
10. Jeanne has been in contact with the Pastoral Council of Holy Name/St. Clement; we could possibly hold a joint meeting in April.
11. Due to the timing of the Lenten Season and Easter Sunday; we need to begin now the election process for four new Council members. Those whose terms expire are Peter Bergman, Mary Karls, Kathy Pluskat, and Leo Schneider. The committee to begin the election/nomination process will be Kathy Pluskat, Don Holmes and Eileen Diener. The actual election will be in May.
12. Other Business:
 - Our May meeting will need to be on Monday, May 19, as May 26 is Memorial Day.
 - Our June meeting needs to be moved to June 30.
 - The Roncalli School play, "Children of Eden", will be presented on March 22.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Monday, March 17, at 6:30 PM.
The next Pastoral Council meeting will be on Monday, March 24, at 7:00 PM
The prayer leader at that meeting will be Leo Schneider.
Respectfully submitted: Leo Schneider

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