

**Minutes, St. Dominic Pastoral Council**  
**January 25, 2016**

**Present:** Fr. Phil Reifenberg, Mary Karls, Leo Schneider, Jeanne Bitkers, Steve Straus, Jane Kautzer, Roy Sellars, Maureen Stoelb, Jane Watry, Bill Linn, Ken Sedmak

**Unable To Attend:** Peter Bergman, Eileen Diener, Steve Scharrer, Don Holmes

1. The opening prayer was led by Jeanne Bitkers.
2. A parishioner had approached a Council member and stated that they had heard about the costs to renovate Holy Name Church and were concerned that these expenditures would be used to justify closing St. Dominic Church; also that Holy Name Church would become a cathedral. It is to be noted that a cathedral is the home church of an Archbishop, who resides not in Sheboygan, but in Milwaukee. Also, at this time, there are no plans to close or consolidate any existing Parishes in the Milwaukee Archdiocese.  
A second concern was voiced that, due to a Scout function being held in the PAC, there was very limited, on-site parking at the 5:00 PM Mass on January 16. The Scouts have been advised that they need to begin their functions at an earlier time to ensure that the church lots are clear by 4:00 PM on Saturday afternoons.
3. In his report, Fr. Phil reiterated his announcement this past weekend that the scrip program has been suspended at Seton School and that an investigation is in progress to address discrepancies found in that program.
4. In his Finance Report, Steve Straus reports that Parish income continues to lag behind budget projections; this is somewhat offset by lower than budgeted expenses. Mass attendance for December was also lower than in 2014. The Finance Council has begun the process of producing a budget for 2016/2017.
5. At our November meeting, Jeanne Bitkers, as head of the North Sheboygan Cluster Committee, had presented a proposed process for determining Mass times for the north side Catholics parishes; assuming that Fr. Carlos would be leaving St. Clement Parish in June. Fr. Matthew at Holy Name has been informed that Fr. Carlos will be replaced by another, bilingual priest. Therefore, Mass time changes due to a reduction to two priests for the three parishes are not needed. At this time, Mass times will remain unchanged.  
During the planned renovations at Holy Name Church, those Masses will be relocated to St. Clement Church. It is noted that some Holy Name parishioners may come to St. Dominic during this time. There are possibilities for Masses to be held in the auditorium at Seton School and even an outdoor Mass may be held during this time period.
6. Committee Reports:
  - A. The Evangelization Team has been hosting small group meetings on a regular basis during recent months.
  - B. The Seton School Board met on January 11. They have one new board member. They are placing advertisements to hopefully increase school enrollment. They have

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decided that there will need to be both a tuition increase and a Parish Assessment increase for the 2016/2017 school year. It was noted that the school is moving forward in updating the Wi-Fi system so as to make Wi-Fi available in the entire building.

C. Stewardship reports that 350 pledge cards have been returned so far. It was noted that this process needs to be done earlier in 2016; most likely in September and October. The “Wish On A Star” program brought in contributions of about \$2500 for various parish committees. This committee states that we will need to locate a new chairperson for the Fall Festival in 2016. A concern was raised about parish financial information being posted on a regular basis in the bulletin.

D. Prayer & Worship reports that we are in need of more Media System operators. The “quilt ladies” are completing a quilt titled “Synergy of Spirit”, depicting working together; when completed it will be hung on the east wall of the church. A suggestion was made that we could begin each Mass by welcoming those around us. The theme for Lent is to be “Mercy Granted, Mercy Shared”. During Lent, “Soup Tuesdays” will be offered at Dominican Hall at St. Clement Parish. The combined Pastoral Councils will provide the soup dinner on March 15. The ARISE event at Holy Name Parish in December was a success but did not always “flow” well.

E. Human Concerns had an active month with bell ringing, poinsettia distribution, and various collections in December. Committee members feel they should better coordinate their activities with those of the other north side parishes.

F. The north Side Cluster Committee states that we should begin moving toward a combined, north side cluster bulletin. This way, members of all three parishes would be aware of all parish events and no one would feel “left out”.

G. Faith Formation – no report.

7. We will discuss the revisions to the Parish Elections process in February.
8. Jeanne handed out information from the Archdiocese on implementing goals decided upon at the 2014 Synod and led some discussion about meeting these goals. All Council members are to read these handouts and also the January 2016 Synod Newsletter and be prepared for more discussion on these at our February meeting.
9. Vince Karls has been in contact with Barb Vite from the Archdiocesan Office on Stewardship. She would like to speak to us about doing a parish assessment and what such a process would entail. She may join us at our February meeting.

Our next Executive Committee meeting will be on Thursday, February 11, at 6:30 pm.

Our next Council meeting will be on Monday, February 22, at 6:30 pm.

The prayer leader at that meeting will be Peter Bergman.

Respectfully submitted: Leo Schneider