

**Minutes, St. Dominic Pastoral Council,  
May 27, 2015**

**Present:** Fr. Phil Reifenberg, Jeanne Bitkers, Mary Karls, Leo Schneider, Beth Grebe, Maureen Stoelb, Don Holmes, Bill Thiele, Bill Linn, Sue Sellars, Steve Straus, Eileen Diener, Steve Scharrer, Pam Duessing

**Unable to Attend:** Peter Bergman

**Guest:** Ken Sedmak

1. The opening prayer was led by Jeanne Bitkers.
2. There was no Parishioner input at this meeting.
3. In his pastor's report, Fr. Phil brought to our attention the May, 2015 Synod Newsletter and a companion e-mail which asks us to consider these questions:  
How do we as staff or Pastoral Council help people to "proclaim Christ and make disciples through the sacramental life of the Church"?  
How does daily prayer help me in living out my faith and growing in discipleship?  
What happens when I do not encounter Jesus in daily prayer?
4. Steve Straus gave the Finance Council report. A net operating deficit was experienced by the Parish in April due to costs associated with the school roof repairs. Total revenue and envelope revenue continue to be below budget predictions. The 2015/16 budget to be presented to the Archdiocese will also show a deficit due to needed spending for additional facility maintenance. The Stewardship Committee is planning a campaign later this year to increase financial support of the Parish and to replenish restricted funds used to cover these deficits.
5. Jeanne Bitkers offered a recap of the parish cluster planning session held in April. We will need to bring this information to the parishioners through the "town hall" meeting later this summer, through parish newsletter and bulletin announcements, and through use of the media system in Church. A preliminary cluster operating plan has been approved. A 3-person sub-committee from each parish will work together to complete more detailed plans which include Sunday Mass schedules for the three parishes and make plans to fulfill the goals set forth for Evangelization in our three parishes. Jeanne and Beth Grebe have volunteered to be on this sub-committee, one more member from Council is needed. These plans need to be finalized and presented to the Archdiocese by Sept. 14, 2015.
6. The north-side Evangelization Team is planning further educational experiences to enhance the message brought forth in the "Called and Gifted" workshop last spring and to "Keep the Spirit Alive" in our call to Discipleship.
7. Jeanne gave a report on the nominations for the four positions on the Pastoral Council. Twenty people were nominated and all have been contacted about accepting these nominations. Several are still considering this call; it is hoped that we will have 5 or 6 people who accept and will run for election to the Council. If there are four or fewer candidates, these would be elected by unanimous ballot and no election would

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be needed. If this occurs, biographies for these candidates would still be presented to the parishioners.

8. Committee Reports:

**Faith Formation** - The committee is accepting and studying input on improving the program for the next year. Parents of students in the program have given many great ideas and voiced some concerns; especially pertaining to discipline in the classrooms. The students need to show more respect for the program and classes.

**Stewardship** – The annual Time and talent survey will take place on the weekend of May 30/31. They are also compiling the results of the recent Parish Census and will be prepared to call all non-responding parishioners, soon. It was decided that Stewardship Committee and Pastoral Council members will make these calls.

**Worship** – This committee is studying the plans for our Parish Cluster and will report to the Pastoral Council in June on the process to implement these plans. This group is also doing a survey to gather suggestions to improve the faith experiences in our Parish.

**Human Concerns** – Maureen Stoelb has stepped down as chair of this committee and has been succeeded by Pat Schmitt and Carla Dirks, who will co-chair the group. This group has been busy as usual with the Food Pantry, the Mother’s Day flower distribution, and The St. Vincent de Paul “Walk to Feed the Hungry” to be held in October. The annual picnic for “Rainbow Kids” was also held; Maureen noted that these children used to deal primarily with divorced parents; the majority now deals with incarcerated parents or family members who have committed suicide.

9. Mary Karls shared a report on the recent District 9 meeting, which includes all the Catholic Parishes in Sheboygan County. They all shared the great feedback resulting from the “Called and Gifted“ workshop. A follow-up to this could be a “Stewardship Fair”. All parishes are working to draw up cluster plans and priest assignments. It was announced that our district, Sheboygan County will merge with Fond du Lac County. We will no longer be a district; instead we will be a “Deanery”, and Fr. Phil will be the “dean” of this joint venture. The next meeting for this group will be in the fall.

10. Our recent Council member nominations have brought to light the need to make some minor changes to our Council By-Laws; these will be discussed after the new Council is seated in July.

11. In other business, the process of welcoming new members to our Parish was discussed; especially if these people are asked to volunteer within our Parish. The possibility of a mentor program was brought up. Our annual town hall meeting will be held later this summer; details are still under discussion.

Our next Executive Committee meeting will be on Monday, June 15, at 6:30 PM

The next Council meeting will be on Monday, June 22, at 6:30 PM

The prayer leader will be Peter Bergman

Respectfully submitted: Leo Schneider

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