

**Minutes, St. Dominic Pastoral Council**  
**October 28, 2013**

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

**Excused:** Brett Goebel

1. The opening Prayer was led by Eileen Diener.
2. There was no parishioner input at this meeting.
3. Fr. Phil gave a brief history of the Archdiocese of Military Service. Originally part of the Archdiocese of New York, in 1985 the AMS was created as a separate entity with its headquarters in Washington, DC. The AMS is led by an Archbishop and 3 or 4 auxiliary bishops and they minister to Catholic service men and women in all branches of the military, including the Veteran's Administration. We recently received a box of envelopes and flyers from them seeking donations. Fr. Phil will discuss this issue in his bulletin article on the weekend of November 2, 3 and a collection for them will take place on November 9, 10.
4. Steve Straus gave summary of the Finance Report. Income continues to be below anticipated levels but, thanks to reduced expense numbers, our net operating income has been higher than budgeted.
5. The Council split into two groups (women and men) to discuss Parish goals and how to be a more welcoming parish. The goals and actions chosen by the women include:
  - A. Form a new Prayer and Worship Committee which would focus on devotional practices other than the actual day-to-day liturgies. Examples would be Prayer Chains, Adoration, Environment and Home Communion.
  - B. Communicate the functions of the various committees and ministries through a bulletin board, slides on the screen before Mass, and bulletin articles.Goals and actions chosen by the men's group include:
  - A. Outreach programs to welcome back members who have fallen away or no longer come to church.
  - B. Increased emphasis on youth programs such as Youth Choir and Sunday Children's Liturgy opportunities.
  - C. A large wall calendar in the Gathering Space to share and highlight upcoming Parish events and functions.
  - D. Look into the hiring of a Pastoral Associate/Parish Director/Deacon to help expand our ministry offerings. This person could serve all 3 north side parishes.

After discussion, it was decided that the Council would implement the two goals chosen by the women and that Sue Sellars and Carla Schommer would explore the formation of an expanded Prayer & Worship committee. All Council members are to think about ways to implement these goals and present these ideas at our next meeting.

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6. The two Parish Listening Sessions each had about 12 participants. Their ideas and thoughts will be presented at the District 9 meeting to be held at St. Dominic Parish on February 22, 2014. Our Parish will be represented by our Pastor, our Synod Representative and 8 Delegates. Additional topics to be discussed in breakout sessions at this meeting include: Catholic Social Teaching, Cultural Diversity, Evangelization, Formation, Leadership, Liturgy, Marriage & Family, and Stewardship.
7. Steve Straus gave a brief description of the process of serving the Tripartite Emmaus Meal, at the Salvation Army headquarters, on Saturday December 14. Council members and family members are asked to volunteer to assist in the setup for and serving of this meal. Two crews are needed; setup from 8:30 to 10:30 and servers from 10:30 to 1:00. Workers are all asked to bring a desert to share at the meal.
8. Committee Reports:
  - A. Worship Committee - no report
  - B. Human Concerns - The Dynamos will attend a program on Human Trafficking on November 20 at 9:00 AM. This committee is also soliciting bell ringers for the annual "Red Kettle" campaign.
  - C. Faith Formation - The FFP Mass and pot-luck dinner were very well attended. There are about 325 students enrolled in the Wednesday and Sunday classes.
  - D. Stewardship - Work is continuing on the Parish Directory. This booklet may not be ready for distribution until sometime in January.
  - E. Evangelization - The team is continuing with the Saturday "Morning of Reflection" programs.
  - F. School - no report
9. Our Council would like to meet with the Council of Holy Name/ St. Clement Churches. The consensus is that this will likely happen in either January or February.
10. Council members had been asked to reach out to people leaving church after Mass and thank them for participating in Eucharist with us. This outreach thus far has seen very positive results.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Monday, November 18, at 7:15 PM.  
Our next Pastoral Council meeting will be on Monday, November 25, at 7:00 PM.  
The prayer leader at that meeting will be Don Holmes.  
Respectfully submitted: Leo Schneider