

Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes
Pastoral Council Minutes
October 25, 2021 6:30 p.m. Dominican Hall

Pastoral Council Members and Staff Present: Fr. Mark Brandl (Pastor), Fr. Norberto Sandoval (Associate Pastor), Vern Baus (SC), Luanne Bemis (SC), Jeanne Bitkers (SD), Tom Clarke (HNJ), Mary Dalhaimer (SC), Brett Goebel (SD), Mary Greeneway (HNJ), Bob Mair (SD), Mary Petrie (HNJ-Staff), Kevin Sander (HNJ), Phil Zastrow (SD)

Excused Council Members and Staff: Tom Dinolfo (SC-Staff), Michael Johnson (HNJ), Rebecca Rupnick (SD), Anne Skowlund (SC), Ron Spaulding (SD), Oscar Valdez (SC)

Welcome: Chair Kevin Sander called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Mary Greeneway, *A Closer Walk With God*

Mission and Vision Statements: Read aloud by all Council members.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Pastoral Council Minutes of September 27th approved with motion from Bob Mair and second from Phil Zastrow
 - The letter to the archdiocese supporting a renewal of three years for Fr. Norberto has been completed and is being circulated to all trustees for their signatures.
- b. Committee Reports
 - The following committee reports were sent electronically to council members prior to the meeting and will be posted online. Additionally, the report of the SD Finance Council (8/17/21) was distributed at the meeting.
 - SNCP Prayer & Worship – 9/23/21
 - SC Prayer & Worship – 9/23/21
 - HNJ Prayer & Worship – 9/28/21
 - SD Prayer & Worship – 10/11/21
 - SNCP Stewardship – 10/11/21
 - HNJ Human Concerns – 10/12/21
 - SD Human Concerns – 6/22/21

2. Financial Reports – Fr. Mark Brandl

- Council was referred to the Financial Summary enclosed with the October 17 bulletin.
- All three parishes are behind in tithing.
- The Time-Talent-Treasure campaign will kick off the weekend of November 6-7 with the long-awaited Time and Talent booklet being distributed. Stewardship committee members and/or volunteers will deliver short talks

after each of the masses. This will be complemented by the priests' messages addressing Treasure.

- There are two very viable buyers for the SC school property.
- An anticipated donation of \$125K from an estate will help cover the major restoration of a stained-glass window at HNJ.
- Look for the second wave of the Archdiocesan Capital Campaign to commence in Spring 2022.

3A. Pastor's Report – Fr. Mark Brandl

- As mentioned previously, the Time and Talent booklet with sign-up form has been completed.
- The new SNCP web site is up and running.
- SNCP Faith Formation Director, Kym Leibham, and SNCP Stewardship Committee Chair, Mike Short, are collaborating to produce videos showcasing various parish ministries and volunteer testimonials.
- Video testimonials would also be ideal for those who have completed the Pre-Cana program.
- Clarification was requested on the roles and responsibilities of new SNCP staff members, Kym Leibham and Lori Biebel. Kym is responsible for coordinating all adult faith formation activities such as the two advent speakers while Lori handles all communication for the parish, including bulletin production and oversight of the SNCP website.
- There is a need for an SNCP ministry team, especially for the Catholics Coming Home promotion. Coming to church is much more than just attending Sunday Mass.

3B Associate Pastor's Report – Fr. Norberto Sandoval

- A rosary novena to honor the feast of St. Clement will take place November 14-23. Ron Spaulding, Pastoral Council Vice Chair will lead the English rosary on November 19.
- Altars of the Dead will be set up at each of the churches. Children at Seton School will help with the design and building of the altars.
- Movie Night took place at SC on October 16 with families enjoying snacks, artwork and the movie, *Coco*.
- Community collaborations continue with John Michael Kohler Art Center and a possible new opportunity with UW-Green Bay, Sheboygan campus.
- Advent banners for the parishes are being designed with a theme of Embracing Our Holy Family.

4. Committee Liaisons/Guests – Mary Petrie, SNCP Pastoral and Administrative Assistant

- Memorial Masses to honor our deceased loved ones will be held at all three parishes the weekend of October 30/31. All parishioners who have died in the past year will have a candle lit in their memory. There are 33 individuals from HNJ; 22 from SC and 32 from SD.

5. Plan of Action

a. Faith Formation/Evangelization

i. Embrace the Holy Family – Engaging our Faith As One – Kevin Sander

- Speaker event will take place on December 10th. The inspirational speaker is Gina Loehr, mother of six and author of five books.
- Tickets are now on sale through Faith Direct for \$10.00 each. Help is needed selling tickets after the masses on the weekend of November 20/21. A signup sheet was passed.

ii. Advent by Candlelight – Mary Jo Bugembe

- An evening for women to prepare their minds and hearts for advent returns this year on Tuesday, November 30 at SD Parish Activity Center.
- The presenters are Olivia O’Keefe and Natalee Mueller, HNJ and SD parishioners respectively, whose topic will be Celebrating a Night of Holy Friendship with a Mary and Elizabeth-inspired Conversation.
- Registration and full details will be available soon on the SNCP website.

b. Summary of Written Thoughts Input from Pastoral Council Members

This document was a summary of thoughts, actions and/or goals gathered from council members at the September 27 meeting. It was compiled by Jeanne Bitkers, acting chair, and sent to all council members via email.

i. Afghan Refugees

Past Activities - Mary Jo Bugembe

- A Refugee/Immigrant committee was formed in October 2018. It was headed by Laura Graney (SD) who coordinated efforts with other community groups.
- Refugee resettlement needs in the community were mostly met by other congregations, so the committee focused on our immigrant parishioners.
- The Laundry Love program was initiated and continues successfully today.
- The committee worked with Catholic Charities on developing a legal information session to assist individuals with citizenship and documentation issues; however the session did not take place due to scheduling conflicts and then COVID.

Present Situation – Group Discussion

- The Refugee population has changed due to an influx of Afghan refugees and others. This could lead to a crisis situation and there is a need to “be ready”. Cultural awareness is important.
- Research is needed to identify pressing needs of refugees and to address the following questions: How can our parish assist? What are others in the community

doing? Is there support from local government? What are the activities in the archdiocese?

- It's important not to limit activities to Afghan refugees only.

Action Item

Refer to Human Concerns Committees for input and possible recommendation for reestablishment of a subcommittee.

ii. Youth Involvement – Group Discussion

- There is an excellent youth faith formation team currently in place.
- It's important to encourage bringing family to church, possibly through the music side. The Sunday evening mass is missed.
- The lifeblood of our parishes is our kids, but they don't see the parish as a second family.
- When teenagers were asked what they like and don't like about the church and what would they change, 60% said they would change two things: music that is boring and tolerance—reaching out to those who “look” different.
- It appears we've already lost a number of kids – as soon as they are confirmed, they drop out. How do we get them back? In the past a follow-up social activity with a stewardship pitch that was held after the confirmation service was successful.
- A possible solution for more youth involvement would be to allow youth to be responsible for one service a month.
- It's important to remember the archdiocese's policy of providing a safe environment for youth.
- Working within the mass schedule now, it was suggested to designate one mass a month to the family.
- It was suggested that Seton School families should have a requirement for youth to participate in liturgy activities such as servers and possibly lectors; however, because the school is part of the state school choice program, this would not be possible.

Action Item

Involve the Prayer and Worship Committees and Music Ministries at each church to examine the feasibility of a trial youth mass. Any recommendations would then need to be reviewed by staff.

6. Old Business

a. Election of parishioners to Council/Discernment – Kevin Sander

- A sign-up sheet was circulated with the following positions still open:

- Evangelization - At Large
- Seton School Board – At Large
- Prayer and Worship – SD
- Human Concerns – SD
- Faith Formation – HNJ and SD

7. New Business

- There was no new business

Next meeting

- Monday, November 22nd, 6:30 p.m., Dominican Hall at St. Clement
 - Opening prayer by Rebecca Rupnick; Closing Prayer by Mary Jo Bugembe
- Committee Reports: Due by the 15th of the month. Email to Mary Jo Bugembe at mjbugembe@gmail.com

Closing Prayer: Fr. Mark Brandl, *Hail Mary*.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Bugembe
SNCP Pastoral Council Secretary
11/3/2021