

**Minutes, St. Dominic Pastoral Council**  
**April 28, 2014**

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

**Excused:** Sue Sellars, Brett Goebel

1. The opening prayer was led by Beth Grebe.
2. In his pastor's report, Fr. Phil stated that the Finance Council has compiled a preliminary budget for the 2014 - 2015 fiscal year. However, final budget income numbers are in question as, in recent years, our parish income has been steadily decreasing. Our parish expenses do remain reasonable.  
At the recent School Board meeting, there was some controversy caused by a group of parents who remain adamantly opposed to the idea of requiring school uniforms at Seton School next year.
3. In the Finance Report, Peter Bergman stated that income continues to fall short of budget projections and the month of March ended with a net deficit. Also the committee is wrestling with plans to implement more technology into our facilities and systems.
4. In an update on the process of forming a new Worship Committee, Jeanne Bitkers presented a letter that is being sent to all leaders of our Parish "Ministry Support Team". This letter explains that the Pastoral Council, in creating a new Worship Committee, does not wish to infringe or impede the work that these people do for the good of our Parish. Council wishes to hold an informative meeting with these people on Wednesday, May 14 to allay fears and answer any questions they may have. All Pastoral Council members are invited to attend this meeting in the church gathering space, at 6:30 PM.  
A discussion of how to increase the flow of information from the Parish Staff and Council, to the parishioners, centered on use of the screens in church to present this information. All informational slides must be easy to read and to understand, and must be scrolled slowly. A balance must be maintained between the church as a place of worship and the need to present information on expanding parish outreach and discipleship.
5. In other business, Fr. Phil brought to the attention of the Council a request from the City Of Sheboygan to remove the playground equipment on the west side of the school building. It was noted that parents of children living close to St. Dominic appreciate the availability of this playground over the use of Cleveland Park, which is several blocks away. Some older youth activity in Cleveland Park does not set good examples of Christian behavior for young children. Council recommended that the Parish would keep the playground equipment intact.

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At this time, St. Dominic Pastoral Council joined with the councils of Holy Name and St. Clement Parishes to discuss Evangelization and ways to build a Catholic Identity across our Parishes. The north side cluster E-Team presented an overview of group plans for 2014 and 2015, as they are known thus far. The north side cluster parishes are also collaborating with the south side cluster parishes to present a “Called and Gifted” seminar during Lent in 2015. Following this presentation, the Councils split into small groups to brainstorm ideas achieve the goal of building Catholic identity in our city. These include:

- ★ Get youth more involved in Parish activities
- ★ Reinforce that we are a universal church, parts of a greater whole
- ★ Share choirs, priests and parish activities, promote attending other parish Masses
- ★ Joint functions, such as “Mass at the Beach”, bible study sessions, book readings, movie nights
- ★ Joint Parish/Committee retreats
- ★ Invite friends to join in when volunteering at various events/functions such as Emmaus Meals, Thanksgiving Dinner
- ★ Combined North Side Parish Mission or similar event
- ★ Collaborate on common prayers and themes at weekend Masses and Liturgical Seasons
- ★ Promote community-wide sacramental celebrations; First Communion, First Eucharist, Confirmation, Youth/Adult Retreats
- ★ Advertise that we are hosting “Catholic-Sponsored” events to show that we are active and alive in our community

The Evangelization Team will analyze these ideas and use them to further cooperation and collaboration among the three, north-side parishes.

Our next meeting will be a joint meeting of the Pastoral Council and the Finance Council on Monday, May 19.

Respectfully submitted: Leo Schneider