

Minutes, St. Dominic Pastoral Council
February 23, 2015

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

Excused: Bill Linn, Maureen Stoelb

1. Due to the absence of Bill Linn, the opening prayer was led by Steve Scharrer.
2. In Parishioner Input, it was noted the cost listed for the “Called and Gifted” Workshop is meant to be a free-will offering, not a fixed cost.
3. In his report, Fr. Phil stated that a new principal is being hired for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, her name is Gina Brown. Also, Sue Sellars is not seeking re-election as a Trustee, Secretary. Fr. Phil is seeking names of qualified candidates for this position.
4. Steve Straus reviewed the Finance Council report. Total revenue continues to lag behind budget predictions, even though Mass attendance and envelope revenue are both up slightly. Steve also reported that a deficit budget will be presented to the Archdiocesan office, hopefully by April 1. The reasons for this are the extended repairs needed for the roof on the school building (about \$85,000). While the Parish has sufficient restricted funds to cover this amount, we will be spending more than our anticipated revenue and the restricted funds will need to be replenished.
5. Eight representatives from St. Dominic Parish attended the District Gathering at Holy Family Parish in Fond du Lac. At this meeting, attendees were presented with the new Archdiocesan Mission Statement and Mission Prayer. A five-year plan was laid out for Parish Clusters to work together in the areas of Multi-generational Catholic Identity Formation, Stewardship Outreach, Social Justice Issues, Evangelization, and Parish Leadership. It was noted at the Gathering that some parishes have not yet formed clusters with neighboring Parishes; these need to be in place for these activities to begin. Cluster plans to implement these activities will need to be presented to the Archdiocese by September, 2015.
6. Pam Duessing and Steve Straus outlined plans being made by the Stewardship Committee. Work is already in progress to conduct a Parish Survey, to begin in early March. This will help identify all current members of St. Dominic Parish. This committee is also developing plans to increase parishioner involvement in our Parish through various activities.
Steve Straus and Vince Karls participated in an Internet Seminar, put on “Our Sunday Visitor” which explored ways to increase both Mass attendance and Parish Income. While some ideas from this group may be useful, Steve explained that St. Dominic would need to pay for the privilege of using this program and that the income focus was solely on those already giving to the Parish, not those who attend but do not give. More study will be given to this program before a decision on its use is made.

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7. Beth Grebe gave a brief report on the “Called and Gifted” Workshop being presented on February 27 and 28. At this time, about 120 people have signed up to attend; she did not have a break-down of attendance numbers by Parish.
8. Committee Reports:
 - A. Worship - This committee, while being newly formed, is working well. They are looking for volunteers to both wash feet and to have their feet washed at the Holy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper.
 - B. Human Concerns - no report
 - C. School - no report
 - D. Faith Formation Program - The FFP committee is looking at various plans to make the program both more inviting and more meaningful to students. Ideas include:
 - ★ Redecorate school classrooms to make environment more inviting
 - ★ Use Confirmation student service hours to improve school classrooms
 - ★ Partner Mission Trip students with local Habitat for Humanity program
 - ★ Connect with youth to make them feel they are a part of “church”Since last fall, this committee has organized the following activities: First Reconciliation Program speaker, retreat for 7th/8th grade FFP students, Advent wreath project, assist with Bingo at area nursing homes, “Breakfast in Bethlehem” program, parent partners in classrooms, new costumes for “Living Stations” presentation, “Last Supper” presentation, high school student retreats, pancake breakfasts, spaghetti dinners, Mardi Gras celebration, and student participation in the First Weekend Social (last month).
9. There is no update from the election committee on the upcoming parish elections. Laura TeWinkle is aware of the dates for the coming election process.
10. The next District meeting will be on April 18, at 9:00 AM, at Blessed Trinity Parish church hall.
11. Current plans call for a joint meeting of the north-side cluster Pastoral Councils in April; no definite plans have been made for this meeting.
12. Father Phil talked to Council about his health issues; he has been seeing a Urologist since last fall and has prostate cancer. Father says the prognosis is good and that the cancer has not spread. He is scheduled for surgery on Monday, March 9 and will be hospitalized for 2 or 3 days. During Father’s recovery and rehab, Fr. Dick Fleishmann will say the weekend Masses for at least two weeks, with Fr. Dan Laseki assisting as needed.

Our next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 16, at 6:30 PM.

Our next Council meeting will be on Monday, March 23, at 6:30 PM

The prayer leader at that meeting will be Steve Scharrer (Bill Linn??)

Respectfully submitted: Leo Schneider