

**Minutes, St. Dominic Pastoral Council**  
**January 27, 2014**

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

**Excused:** Brett Goebel, Sue Sellars, Bill Thiele

1. The opening prayer was led by Pam Duessing.
2. Mary Karls gave a response to a parishioner concern from the November meeting concerning the defibrillator used in church. Larry Leonard checks the machine and assures that the batteries remain charged on a regular schedule. There is training held for new operators about once every 2 years. About 12 to 14 ushers are currently trained in the use of this machine.
3. In his pastor's report, Father Phil talked about the process set in place for the upcoming District 9 meeting in preparation for the Synod to be held in June. Each parish is to have 8 representatives to this meeting who are willing to discuss and give input on various areas of ministry. As of this date, 7 parishioners have volunteered to represent our parish at this meeting.
4. Steve Straus gave the Finance report. Income continues to be below budgeted amounts; this is offset by lower than forecast expenses in most areas. One area of concern is the facility grounds care for the coming summer. Most of the "old" grounds crew has decided to leave due to the advanced age of its members. Suggestions include using high school and/or FFP (Faith Formation Program) youth to assist with the grounds care. Using youth in this manner brings up concerns of supervision and liability due to the use of power equipment. Another concern that was brought up was that Seton Catholic School could have done a better job of outreach to the affiliated parishes concerning Catholic School's Week activities.
5. The Council discussed the process of finalizing an operating budget for the 2014 /2015 fiscal year. Of major concern is our subsidy to the Seton Catholic School, as this subsidy is not finalized until they complete their budget process. The amount is dependent on total enrollment, tuition, fundraisers and staffing; with the balance made up by the 3 contributing parishes. It was decided that the Council will meet with the standing subcommittees in the coming months to discuss programming needs and facility usage. We will meet with these groups in this order:  
February Council meeting - FFP Committee  
March Council meeting - Worship Committee  
April Council meeting - Building & Grounds Committee  
May Council Meeting - Human Concerns Committee  
Committee members at these meetings should be prepared to discuss spending guidelines and budgetary needs.
6. Carla Schommer discussed the progress in forming a new Worship committee. She and Tammy will attend the North Side Parishes' Worship Committee meeting on

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Tuesday, 1/28 to see and discuss the directions being taken in liturgy in the other two churches. The intent is to mesh our liturgies with theirs so that all 3 parishes present the same or similar messages to their members. Carla and Tammy are also exploring methods to meld all the reporting groups in our parish into one cohesive committee to enhance and enliven the prayer experience of St. Dominic Parish and to move forward as a unified group. Carla warned that this could be a somewhat long and arduous process to forestall the contention that existed within the former Prayer and Worship Committee.

7. Other Committee reports:
  - A. Stewardship - The parish directory proof copy is due back to them on January 28. Once the proof is approved, it will take about 6 weeks to actually publish the directory.
  - B. Human Concerns - Members of this committee assisted with the recent Usher's Brat Fry. The Dynamos will see a Sheboygan Police Department program on heroin use and control methods at their Wednesday, February 26 meeting.
  - C. Evangelization - The 3 parishes are discussing the organization of future, cluster-wide events.
  - D. School - Seton School has decided to adopt school uniforms for the 2014 school year and beyond. The purchases will be made through Lands End; their prices are fair and they give a very good (16%) return if scrip is used to purchase the uniforms. Seton School will also apply for participation in the School Choice program for next fall. This program is being expanded and, if accepted, it could mean 10 to 12 new students with the additional tuition income for the school.  
The Seton School annual fundraiser, "The Main Event" will be held in the PAC on March 1.
  
8. A joint meeting with the Parish Council of Holy Name/St. Clement Parishes is in the planning stages. The format would most likely include an abbreviated meeting by our Council either before or after the joint meeting.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Monday, February 17, at 7:15 PM.

The next Pastoral Council meeting will be on Monday, February 24.

The prayer leader at that meeting will be Peter Bergman.

Respectfully submitted: Leo Schneider