

**Minutes, St. Dominic Pastoral Council**  
**June 30, 2014**

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

**Excused:** Mary Karls, Brett Goebel

**Guest:** Ted Morrison

1. The opening prayer was led by Leo Schneider.
2. There was no parishioner input at this Council meeting.
3. Jeanne Bitkers extended a “Thank You” to each of our outgoing Council members: Kathy Pluskat was not reelected at the end of her term and Kathy will partner with Ann Scharrer to form and co-chair the new Worship Committee. Brett Goebel had decided to step down as Trustee, Treasurer of St. Dominic Parish.
4. Jeanne then welcomed our two new members: Bill Linn was elected to fill the position formerly held by Kathy Pluskat. Steve Scharrer was elected to the position of Parish Trustee, Treasurer.
5. Fr. Phil reports that Janet Holmes and Mary Gruber will discern which of them will fill the vacancy on the Seton School Board. Father also stated that, since enrollment at Seton School is projected to drop a bit next year, our school subsidy payment may increase. This will disrupt an already tight budget picture for our parish.
6. Ted Morrison gave a report of the Archdiocesan Synod, held on June 7 and 8. Ted stated that the regional Synod meetings were the initiative for the combined Synod in Milwaukee. At the Synod, groups of 9 or 10 delegates, along with a leader, went through the suggested action plans for the eight focus categories and voted on the top two to present to the full Synod. Ted reports that the entire Synod process was very joyous and uplifting and that there were no dissention or negative attitudes. The process touched on all cultures and ethnicities, no one was left out. The next step in the Synod will be for the Archbishop to review what was presented and make an announcement in the Fall on how the Church will move forward with these recommendations.
7. In the Finance Report, Steve Straus reported that income continues to fall below budget projections and Mass attendance also continues to be lower than in recent years. With tight control of expenses, the Parish finished the fiscal year with a slight, positive balance. The new budget has been completed and submitted to the Archdiocese; however the changing numbers from Seton School Budget will very likely cause us to end the upcoming fiscal year with a negative balance.
8. In a review of our Council goals for this year, Kathy Pluskat and Ann Scharrer are working together to begin formation of a new Parish Worship Committee. The

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Stewardship Committee is continuing meetings with the Media Ministry on plans to incorporate Parish Announcements on the screens before Mass.

9. Committee Reports:
  - A. Human Concerns - Maureen Stoelb is stepping down as chair of this committee, Carla Dirks will take over as the new chairperson.
  - B. Faith Formation - no report
  - C. Stewardship - no report
  - D. Evangelization - no report
  - E. School - no report
  - F. Nominating Committee - The Council election process went very smoothly and was very successful. The committee has listed the procedures they used for future reference. They also thank Laura TeWinkle in the Parish office for her assistance in the election process.
  
10. The Council election process has shown that the Council may need to revise its operating rules (the "Appendix"). It has been decided to postpone these rule changes for one year to see if other processes might also need adjustment.
  
11. Our July 26 Council meeting will be a morning of reflection and planning. Prior to this meeting, all Council members are to read Chapter 2 of the book "The Joy of The Gospel" (Evangelii Gaudium) by Pope Francis.
  
12. Elections for Council Officers were held; the results are:  
Chairperson - Jeanne Bitkers  
Vice-Chair - Mary Karls  
Secretary - Leo Schneider
  
13. Other Business:
  - A. Our St. Dominic Patronal Feast Day will be on Friday, August 8. Plans are in progress.
  - B. The Parish annual Town Hall Meeting will take place on Monday, August 25 at 7:00 PM, in church. It will coincide with the August Pastoral Council meeting.
  - C. Council members were asked to sign up to lead the opening prayer at the meetings for the 2014-2015 Council year; sign-ups are as follows:

August - Maureen Stoelb	September - Bill Thiele
October - Steve Straus	November - Don Holmes
December - Leo Schneider	January - Pam Duessing
February - Bill Linn	March - Steve Scharrer
April - Eileen Diener	May - Jeanne Bitkers
June - Peter Bergman	

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, July 26.  
Respectfully submitted: Leo Schneider