

Minutes, St. Dominic Pastoral Council
May 23, 2016

Present: Fr. Phil Reifenberg, Mary Karls, Don Holmes, Leo Schneider, Jeanne Bitkers, Bill Linn, Steve Straus, Peter Bergman, Maureen Stoelb, Jane Kautzer, Ken Sedmak, Eileen Diener

Unable To Attend: Steve Scharrer, Roy Sellars, Jane Watry

1. The opening prayer was led by Mary Karls.
2. There were several concerns brought up in parishioner input. Our north side cluster should move toward publishing a combined, 3-parish bulletin. This would keep all parishioners informed of cluster activities. The cluster should also consider hiring a parish business manager to relieve the priests of day-to-day business decisions. Since all three parishes share various functions, a cluster personnel committee should also be considered. The parishes should look into building security between Masses; people have been known to “wander in” between Mass times and surprise those working in the building.
3. In his pastor’s report, Fr. Phil stated that Holy Name and St. Clement Parishes are considering some personnel changes in their administrations; this would be a good time to look into hiring a three-parish business manager and forming a personnel committee. Fr. Phil has also been appointed Temporary Administrator of St. John the Baptist Parish in Plymouth and of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Elkhart Lake. These duties will take him away from St. Dominic a bit more this summer.
4. The date for the Parish Assessment has been confirmed on Thursday, September 29. Finance Council, Prayer & Worship, Stewardship, and Pastoral Council members are all asked to attend this process. Pastoral Council members are each asked to invite a younger parishioner to attend with us. This meeting is scheduled for 6:30 to 8:00 PM.
5. Don Holmes reported that there were five people who accepted the call to participate in the Parish elections. Since we had four open positions, and Roy Sellars has asked to resign from the Council; there is no need to hold an election this year.
6. Steve Straus gave the Finance report. While envelope and general revenue continue to be slightly below budget forecasts, expenses are \$64,305 below the amounts budgeted, giving the Parish a net operating surplus of \$38,641. This has allowed the Finance Committee to move some repair projects for 2016/2017 year into the current budget year and thus project a balanced budget for the upcoming year. It was decided that Brett Goebel will Chair the Finance Committee for the 2016/2017 fiscal year.
7. Committee Reports:
 - A. Evangelization – no report
 - B. Seton School – Graduation ceremonies will be held on June 8. At this time, there are 189 students enrolled for next year.

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- C. Stewardship – This committee will next meet on June 9. Since no one has come forward to chair this year’s Fall Festival, the Stewardship Committee will oversee the festival. It was stated that there should be a single person as chair due to financial reporting concerns. There will be a parish golf outing this summer; Brett Goebel will be in charge. A sign-up is ongoing for fall sports teams.
 - D. Prayer & Worship – There was a request that we should be singing more “Mary” hymns during the month of May. There are one couple and one single person as new members to the parish; a welcoming event is being planned in June. The committee is looking at doing more Spanish hymns during our Masses. The quilt project is on hold at this time.
 - E. Human Concerns – The committee is looking for ways to involve parents of high school seniors in both parish and religious education activities. Discussions are in progress by the Elizabeth Ministry to facilitate possible updates to the family room in back of church. The next Emmaus Meal will be on Labor Day weekend. The St. Vincent de Paul Society reports that calls for assistance are down this year. Sixth-grade students are helping at the Food Pantry.
 - F. Cluster Planning – A replacement representative is needed for Roy Sellars on the cluster planning committee. All 3 north side Parishes need to be better represented in the cluster planning process and in related activities.
 - G. Faith Formation – This group is looking into ways to increase parent involvement in the Faith Formation Program.
8. There is an ongoing interest in having various Committee Chairs report to the Council during the year. At this time, we would like to hear first from the Seton School Committee; then from the Evangelization Team and from Prayer & Worship. It was also decided that there will be a Parish-wide Town Hall meeting on Monday, August 8; with an ice cream social to follow.
9. The program “Catholic ID” has begun with the formation of the initial “group of twelve”. After the first round of meetings, 12 more people will be evangelized into the group and will continue to grow through that process. This group meets on Tuesdays, is being hosted by Holy Name Parish and the first round of meetings should conclude in mid-August.
10. There is ongoing discussion about holding a parish volunteer appreciation event. It would be on a week night and could possibly be included with the ice cream social after the Town Hall meeting. The last event of this type was held in 2010.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Thursday, June 9, at 6:00 PM.

The next Council meeting will be on Monday, June 27, at 6:30 PM.

The prayer leader at that meeting will be Don Holmes.

Respectfully submitted: Leo Schneider