

Minutes, St. Dominic Pastoral Council
February 25, 2013

Present: Fr. Phil Reifenberg, Jeanne Bitkers, Kathy Pluskat, Leo Schneider, Sue Sellars, Mike Short, Mary Calteaux, Don Holmes, Vince Karls, Pam Duessing, Steve Straus, Bill Thiele, Eileen Diener, Maureen Stoelb, Carla Schommer, Brett Goebel, Peter Bergman.

Excused: Mary Karls, Beth Grebe, Greg Spaeth

1. The opening prayer was led by Bill Thiele.
2. Fr. Phil chose to add comments on various issues as the meeting progressed.
3. Peter Bergman gave the report from the Finance Council. Our year-to-date numbers are:
 - Envelope revenue is up 4.3%
 - Expenses are down \$53,000
 - Total income is up \$44,000These numbers are all in comparison to those of last year at this time. January income appeared to be down from last year but there was one less weekend in January this year. The Council is formulating the 2013/2014 budget, with input from the various committees and staff. They are also working on a process to properly credit parishioners on each parishioner's annual statement of parish support for donations made to the parish.
4. Ongoing Business Items:
 - A. Parish Mission Statement
 - A subcommittee of four people; Sue Sellars, Mary Calteaux, Don Holmes, and Mike Short; have been studying our Parish Mission Statement with the purpose of revising and bringing this document up-to-date. They presented their findings to the Council who, after some discussion, voted unanimously to approve these changes. We thank this group for their time and input. It was noted that the original document was drawn up during the pastorate of Fr. John Theisen and revised during the pastorate of Fr. Don Elverman. The revised, 2013 mission statement reads as follows:

We, the members of St. Dominic parish, are joined in mission with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, the entire Catholic Church, and all People of God. We are a people of diverse backgrounds and gifts, stewards of time, talents and treasures; that God has entrusted us to be used, for His good, in our parish and beyond.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we strive to be a welcoming, accepting, healing family; present in both body and spirit, responding to the needs, concerns, and rights of others.

Together, we celebrate God's love, grow through youth and adult faith formation, learn to understand and accept change, and share in the responsibility of teaching, preaching, and spreading the Good News of Christ.

We are "Alive in the Spirit"!

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B. Pastoral Council Appendix/Operating Procedures:

This document is being put together by the Executive Committee at the direction of the Archdiocese; it governs the operating parameters of our Council. The Committee continues to work on this task; the areas needing further study and documentation are those concerning the nomination and election of Council members. Another requirement is a listing of all groups who report to the 5, standing, parish committees.

C. Fr. Phil talked about the Parish Mission; planned to begin on the weekend of October 12th and 13th and continuing through the following Thursday, October 17th. The presenter will be Fr. Michael Goodavish. He will preach the weekend Masses and will then host presentations on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights. For those unable to attend the evening sessions, they will be repeated the following mornings after the morning mass. The Sunday night session would be geared toward teens, Monday and Tuesday's sessions would be geared toward adults, the Wednesday session would include the CFP students. Fr. Michael works for the mission group "Bread for the World".

D. Fr. Phil briefly talked about a planned Parish Town Hall Meeting, to be held in late May or early June. The format of this would be similar to that of the one held last spring; the purpose to be to listen to the concerns and comments of all parishioners.

5. New Business Items:

A. Don Kamin, of St. Dominic's Parish and Matt Daniels, of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, have approached Fr. Phil about the possibility of using some space at St. Dominic's for holding meetings of Boy Scouts; who are chartered with St. Peter's Church (the St. Dominic Scouts are merging with the Scouts of St. Peter's Church). They envision using several classrooms, along with storage closets, in the school building; they may also need some storage space in the basement. The group consensus is that this sharing of facilities would be good for the parish and a positive method of working with our Tripartite partner parish. Discussion also included extending an invitation to Girl Scout Troops, if they are in need of space for their activities.

B. Jeanne passed out a list of "Ground Rules for Successful Meetings" and asked all members to study and abide by these rules.

C. Jeanne also passed out a form suggesting the proper format for Committee Reports; this format would keep these reports informative while also keeping them brief.

6. Committee Reports:

A. Prayer and Worship - Carla Schommer reported that she, Fr. Phil, and Tammy Kuhnen met to discuss the formation of this committee. They have decided to await the publication of the Parish Mission Statement and then use this document and the suggested "norms" of the Archdiocese to set up the structure of this group.

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They also wish to work with the leaders of the other North Side Parishes to align the messages and instructions of all three Parishes.

B. Human Concerns - Mary Calteaux reports that this committee is once again using the "Project Rice Bowl" to collect moneys for the benefit of missions. There will also be a distribution of Easter Lilies to homebound parishioners on Palm Sunday.

C. Christian Formation - Eileen Diener reported that this group hosted a very successful and well attended Mardi Gras celebration. The committee is concerned that, with the influx of students and teachers when the three, North Side Parish CFP programs are combined in the fall; they will become overwhelmed and bogged down in trying to minister to so many students; unless there is a corresponding increase in the number of adult helpers.

D. Stewardship - Vince Karls reported that they will meet with Life Touch, to continue planning the parish Directory, on May 6th. Current plans for the directory are as follows: "Kick-off" around June 1

Photos to be taken: July 30th through August 3rd
August 13th through August 17th
August 26th through August 30th

Photo times are generally 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM, weekdays,
10:00 AM to 5:00 pm on Saturdays

The directory layout would be complete by September 20th

The directory proof would be ready by October 15th

Plans are underway to hold a Fall festival on Sunday, September 15th. A guest choir would perform at the 10:30 Mass to kick off this event. Much planning and many volunteers are still needed on this. This event will also need a general chairperson.

Current plans are to hold the "Time and Talent" sign-up on a weekend soon after Easter.

E. Evangelization - The "E Team" will be following the focus of the Archdiocesan Pastoral letter to be published soon and previewed in a recent issue of "The Catholic Herald"; namely "renewal" and "Who do You Say That I Am?" This group has also begun plans for a day of reflection that would focus on growing our relationship with Jesus.

F. School - No report, other than Marilyn Blindauer has replaced Renee Zenk as one of our Parish representatives on the Board at Seton School.

7. Reminders -

The Council is reminded that we will be hosting the "First Weekend Social" on April 6th and 7th.

All committee liaisons are reminded to send to Leo Schneider the lists of all groups reporting to each committee; please do so by March 11th.

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8. Other Business - Mary Calteaux, a CFP teacher, is concerned that, when there is a feast day, such as Christmas or Easter, or a parish function such as the usher's brat fry; Sunday CFP classes and "Liturgy of the Word for Children" classes are cancelled. The CFP class schedule is driven by the public schools' vacation and holiday schedule. This greatly shortens the number of weeks available for the presentation of these classes and diminishes the CFP mission of spreading the Faith of our Church to these children. We have a responsibility to make these lessons a much higher priority to our children. Our class schedule should not remain as it is just because we have always done it that way. She wonders how other churches deal with this situation and wishes to learn from their experiences. It was decided to forward this issue to the CFP Committee for action.

Mary also mentioned a new program being administered by St. Joseph's Parish, in Grafton. It is called "Gays and Straights in Christ and is open to all, both homosexual and straight people, who wish to more deeply explore their faith. This group is open to people of all ages.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, March 25th, at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Leo Schneider