

**Minutes, St. Dominic Pastoral Council**  
**January 28, 2013**

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

**Excused:** Mary Calteaux

**Absent:** Brett Goebel, Greg Spaeth

1. The opening prayer was led by Eileen Diener.

2. Pastor's Comments:

Fr. Phil gave an update on the Archdiocesan bankruptcy proceedings. The Archdiocese will be responsible for paying the legal fees and other costs for the entire legal process, estimated so far to be about 6 million dollars. The archdiocese feels that much of this money would be put to better use elsewhere, especially by serving the needs and well-being of the victims of priest abuse. Some could also be used to continue the various programs and functions of the diocese. Archdiocesan lawyers are working to limit the total outlay for legal fees. The plaintiffs would like to include in these proceedings any alleged abuse instances by priests of various religious orders. The Archdiocese is trying to stop this action as they have no control over these other priests or their assignments. The Archdiocese also feels that those victims who have already benefitted from a financial settlement in the past with the Archdiocese should not be allowed to again benefit from the results of these proceedings. There is some concern about the upcoming Catholic Stewardship Appeal: but those monies should be segregated and not available to the plaintiffs. We have been assured that parishes and parish funds will not be tapped in the settlement process.

3. Peter Bergman gave a financial report to the Council. Year-to-date envelope revenue is up 6.25% over budget, while expenses are about \$35,000 below budget. At this time, the parish has a surplus of about \$30,000. Overall, the current parish financial status is very good.

The Finance Committee is working toward putting a regular, monthly, finance report back into the bulletin.

The North Side cluster parishes will all be moving their CFP classes to our facility beginning in fall. Fees for the other parishes for the use of our facility have yet to be determined.

There was some discussion about needed repairs to our facilities; Buildings and Grounds Committee members have been asked for input to the budget process in this area.

At the beginning of the 2012/2013 school year, \$177,000 was budgeted for our share of operating expenses at Seton School; not all of those funds may be needed for that purpose.

All of the monies pledged to the "Faith In Our Future" Fund should have now been collected; we have not yet withdrawn any that were allocated for use in specific projects for our parish.

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Members of the Finance Committee are: Fr. Phil Reifenberg, Brett Goebel, Sue Sellars, Peter Bergman, Steve Straus, Jan Gebhard, and Al Jante. There is one vacancy on this committee.

4. Ongoing Business Items:

A group of Council members has volunteered to study our Parish Mission Statement and suggest changes or additions to this document. This group is: Mike Short, Don Holmes, Sue Sellars, and Mary Calteaux. If possible, the proposed document should be presented to the February Council meeting for discussion.

The Pastoral Council executive committee will develop the Council Template, which outlines the structure and operating parameters for our Council.

5. Committee Reports:

A. Stewardship Committee - Vince Karls

This committee would like to start anew the Time and Talent sign-up/recruitment process that was done annually in the past. Maureen Stoelb, Pam Duessing, Greg Spaeth, Bob Mair, and Vince and Mary Karls will lead this effort. The goal is to do a Time and Talent presentation to the Parish during the Lenten season.

Stewardship has researched the production of a new Parish Directory; the last directory was produced in 2002. The company that did our last directory is no longer in business; the new company is Life Touch. They have assured us that there would be no cost to the parish for this project. This company also takes a more casual approach to the photo production process and would spread it out to a time frame of 5 to 6 weeks. The current plan is to begin this project in late summer, before students would go off to college. A calling committee could be set up to make appointments or appointments could be made on-line. The production will also accept submitted photos and the inclusion of pets in the photos. Several samples of their work were viewed by the Council.

In addition to the Parish Directory, the group feels there is a need for a Parish Census, to update the Parish Roster. This project will take place before we begin the Parish Directory.

The committee would also like to reintroduce some form of the Fall Festival; they feel that this celebration of Parish Community should be separate from the celebration of our Parish Patron Saint Feast Day in August.

B. Evangelization Committee - Beth Grebe (The "E" Team)

This group has 6 members from the North Side Parish cluster. One of their first actions was to attend a presentation on Evangelization at St. Francis Seminary. There are other workshops planned in future months for this group. They feel that their principal goal is to contact and welcome back into the church those who have drifted away, those who have become disenfranchised with the Catholic Church, teens and new converts. They agree that to attempt all of these goals at once would be an overwhelming task. A more attainable goal would be to start with the active membership of our parishes: to "rekindle the spirit", "fan the

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flames” of faith, and to “grow our relationship with Jesus”. No time frame has been set for these activities.

This committee is looking for one more representative from St. Dominic Parish.

C. Human Concerns Committee - Maureen Stoelb

This committee has remained very active with many volunteer members during the recent changes in our parish. Ongoing projects include the Emmaus Meal, Giving Trees, Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, Project Rice Bowl, poinsettia and Easter lily distribution, and the North Side Christian Food Pantry.

D. Christian Formation - Eileen Diener

The CFP Committee is planning for the combined, CFP program for the 3, north side parishes which is to begin with the new school year in fall. They are concerned with restructuring this committee to include members of Holy Name and St. Clement parishes and also are unsure how the possible priest vacancy at Holy Name Parish will impact their plans. They wish to assure a “welcoming” atmosphere for integrating members from the other parishes.

E. School Committee - Bill Thiele

The Seton School Board has completed setting tuition and budget numbers for the next school year. They are planning a new marketing campaign and have decided to offer only full-day kindergarten classes next year. There is one vacancy on the School Board from St. Dominic Parish; Rene Zenk has resigned from the Board.

6. New Business:

A. Fr. Phil stated that he feels comfortable in directing the process for the election of a new Parish Trustee; the pastoral Council does not need to have a role in this.

B. At some point in the future, there will be required training for all Council members, those training times and topics have not yet been determined.

C. The Pastoral Council will host the “First Weekend Social” on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteers for the 5:00 PM Mass are Pam Duessing, and Maureen Stoelb.

Those for the 8:00 AM Mass are Carla Schommer, Kathy Pluskat and Eileen

Diener. For the 10:30 AM Mass, Steve Straus and Peter Bergman will serve, and for the 6:00 PM Mass, the volunteers are Mary and Vince Karls and Bill Thiele.

7. Other Business:

There is a need to form a “Prayer and Worship” committee; to set plans and goals for the worship and liturgy portions of our parish activities. A great deal of structure and organization are needed for this vast area. The former committee consisted of 10 to 15 members. Fr. Phil, Tammy Kuhnen, and Carla Schommer will meet to lay some groundwork for this committee.

A Pastoral letter detailing the specifics of the coming, 2014, Synod is expected soon; Council will need to see this letter and discuss plans for this event.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Leo Schneider

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