

Minutes, St. Dominic Pastoral Council
March 25, 2013

Present: Fr. Phil Reifenberg, Jeanne Bitkers, Kathy Pluskat, Leo Schneider, Beth Grebe, Mary Calteaux, Don Holmes, Bill Thiele, Maureen Stoelb, Mary Karls, Eileen Diener, Steve Straus, Greg Spaeth, Sue Sellars, Mike Short

Excused: Peter Bergman, Brett Goebel, Pam Duessing, Vince Karls

Absent: Carla Schommer

1. The opening prayer was led by Jeanne Bitkers.

There was one correction to the minutes of this Council's February minutes. Fr. Michael Goodavish, the priest who will lead our planned, Parish Mission in October, works with the non-profit organization "Food for the Poor", not "Bread for the World" as reported in those minutes.

2. Fr. Phil reports that the pastoral letter expected from the Archdiocese has been written and will be distributed soon to all parishes. This letter, with its companion study guide, will be given to Council members for study and discussion and will be presented to Parishioners later this year. The information contained within and discussion of this letter will lead into the Archdiocesan Synod to be held in 2014.

Nicole Heit has asked to resign her position as Youth Minister for St. Dominic Parish. She has been approached by the pastor of the parish in McFarland, in Dane County, which is much nearer to her home. She wishes to move there to be nearer to her family. Her job here would end on June 30th. At this time, it appears that we would not need to hire someone to fill this position. The planned consolidation of the CFP programs for the three, North Side parishes may provide sufficient staffing to handle the added responsibilities of that role. Combining the staff from the 3 parishes will create many challenges and there are many issues that will need to be resolved.

There are ongoing meetings about consolidating the leadership of the 3 parishes in light of the impending retirement of Fr. Jim Connell. Father Phil also stated that our Finance Council will be responsible for any personnel policy decisions in our parish.

3. Steve Straus gave the report for the Finance Council. Our year-to-date numbers are as follows: Envelope revenue is 2.7% over budgeted amounts
Expenses are down \$49,000 from forecasts
Income is about \$32,000 above budgeted numbers
Income continues to be below that of last year. The Council is continuing its work on the budget for our next fiscal year.

4. Ongoing Business Items:
Jeanne Bitkers discussed the continuing efforts of the Executive Committee to complete the Pastoral Council Appendix; a list of our Council's operating procedures

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which are required by the Archdiocesan Office on Pastoral Councils. She passed out copies of the appendix to Council members, who are to look through this document and be prepared for discussion of it at our April meeting.

5. New Business Items:

A. Jeanne Bitkers discussed the method of electing members to the Pastoral Council and format in which this Council will continue to operate. All current members of the Provisional Council need to submit, in writing, their desire to continue on as Council members to Fr. Phil. This needs to be accomplished before our next meeting on April 22nd. In June, the existing Council of 17 members will be cut to 12 members by a process yet to be determined. Those 12 members, with Fr. Phil and the two Trustees, will form the Pastoral Council. These members will then serve until elections in 2014, with 1/3 (4) of the Council members being replaced by election from within the Parish each year. Fr Phil and these 12 members will determine who will serve for one, two or three years until all members have ended their terms. At that time, all newly elected members will serve a three-year term.

B. Jeanne also reiterated that the Committee Liaison people are communicators, not active participants, in the committees to which they are affiliated.

6 Committee Reports:

A. Worship Committee - This group is studying a proposed mission statement and reviewing Archdiocesan norms for the responsibilities of this committee. A somewhat spirited discussion then ensued about this committee needing to work on reinvigorating the liturgies here at St. Dominic and getting people more involved in the Mass. They need to recruit volunteers to form an active, energetic committee to plan our Parish Liturgies, with a staff person as advisor and facilitator.

B. Human Concerns - There was a donation to our sister parish outreach program. The Dominic Dynamos are forming a new Committee and the next Emmaus Meal to be staffed by volunteers from our Parish will be on April 6th.

C. Christian Formation - This group wishes to recognize Ceil Mondloch. She has asked to retire after 22 years of leadership in the RCIA program. An appropriate recognition will be forthcoming.

D. Stewardship - There is nothing new to report from this group; they continue to search for general chairpersons and committee chairs for the Fall Festival.

E. Evangelization - This committee is planning for a series of four Saturday morning reflections, to be held in Fall, 2013. The topic will be "A Closer Relationship to God". Venue, timing, budget, and presenters are all still being considered.

F. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School Board - There is nothing new to report. The Board is reviewing personnel policies.

7. Reminder

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The Pastoral Council will host the First Weekend Social on Saturday and Sunday, April 6th and 7th. Those who volunteered for this are:

5:00 PM Mass

Pam Duessing
Maureen Stoelb

8:00 AM Mass

Carla Schommer
Kathy Pluskat
Eileen Diener

10:30 AM Mass

Steve Straus
Peter Bergman

6:00 PM Mass

Vince and Mary Karls
Bill Thiele

8. Other Business:

Bill Thiele talked about the somewhat involved process by which the Council reviews and approves the meeting minutes; he feels the process could be streamlined. It was decided that the Executive Committee will review this process at their next meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 22nd, at 7:00 PM, in the Aquinas Room.
Respectfully submitted: Leo Schneider