

Minutes, St. Dominic Pastoral Council
November 25, 2013

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

Unable To Attend: Sue Sellars

Guest: Ted Morrison

1. The opening prayer was led by Don Holmes.
2. There were two parishioner concerns brought to the attention of the Council.

A parishioner asked about the defibrillators that were purchased for use by the Parish a number of years ago; do we still have them and are people, trained in their use, available at each Mass? Mary Karls said that she and most of the ushers were originally trained in their use and that, as time has passed, some of those so trained may no longer be serving as ushers. Mary said she would have Vince Karls check with the ushers on this matter. The servicing of these units was also discussed; Leo Schneider will check with the Buildings & Grounds Committee to see if this is being done on a regular basis.

The “Wake Up to Your Faith” group would like to know of service opportunities available in our Parish community. This query was referred to the Stewardship Committee.
3. Fr. Phil discussed the plans for the District Synod meeting to be held on February 22. The Archdiocese is working to expand youth involvement and participation in the Synod and may hold a youth caucus at the same time.

There will also be an International Synod in the fall of 2014. This gathering will consist of a Synod of Bishops who will discuss many topics, including Marriage & Family Issues, Cohabitation, Same-Sex Partners, and Divorce.
4. Ted Morrison discussed the results of the Synod listening sessions held here at St. Dominic Parish. Those who gathered were asked to share their thoughts and opinions on such topics as Catholic Identity, Evangelization, and Stewardship. These discussion points were assembled into a document that was then presented to the Archdiocesan Planning Committee for the Synod. The February District meeting, which will include delegates from all the parishes in Sheboygan County, will take place here at St. Dominic. Fr. Phil, Ted, and 8 other delegates will represent our Parish at this meeting. This meeting will review and compile the results of all the various Parish listening sessions. In addition, breakout sessions will cover 8 specific ministry areas: Catholic Social Teaching, Cultural Diversity, Evangelization, Faith Formation, Leadership, Liturgy, Marriage & Family, and Stewardship.
5. Steve Straus summarized the Finance Council report for the Council. We ended October with a net operating loss of \$2,340; the total revenue \$57,752 was \$9,460 below the amount budgeted for the month, and operating expenses were very close to the amounts budgeted.

**Minutes, St. Dominic Pastoral Council
November 25, 2013**

6. Steve Straus talked about our Council assisting in the serving of the Emmaus Meal on Saturday, December 14. There will be two shifts, set up from 8:30 to 10:30 and serving the meal from 10:30 to 1:00 PM. All you come to work on either shift are asked to bring a desert.

7. At our last meeting, the Council chose two goals for 2013-2014; the establishment of an expanded Worship Committee, and to increase communication the functions and activities of various committees and ministries to parishioners.
Carla Schommer spoke on progress to date on the new Worship and Spiritual Life Committee. This group would consist of 5 to 8 members; who “would be dedicated to assisting the pastor in the promotion and development of an environment for the worship of God and the spiritual life of our parish. This is done through liturgical and pastoral ministries and includes all parishioners, even the homebound. Parishioners would be provided with opportunities of active participation in liturgical worship and the ability to enhance and deepen their faith through liturgical celebrations, significant prayer experiences, educational programs and spiritual life programs”. Discussion, on the communications goal, centered on how best to implement information flow to parish members and to visitors to our parish. The decision was made to refer this to the Stewardship committee for further review and planning.

8. Committee Reports:
 - A. Human Concerns - no report
 - B. Stewardship - Work continues to proceed on the Parish Directory, which should be published in February.
 - C. Faith Formation - This committee has directed a number of successful events; the CFP Potluck Dinner, a retreat for the Confirmation class, a CFP Family event (a play presented by 5th and 6th graders), and the 8th grade students interacting with and assisting residents at Morningside Nursing Home.
 - D. Evangelization - the “Morning of Reflection” series of meetings has been completed. Attendance was steady through the series and participants said they would like to see more events of this type.
 - E. School - no report

9. Jeanne has talked to the Pastoral Council officers for Holy Name/St. Clement Parishes; a date for our Councils to meet jointly will be set in January.

10. It was decided that there would be no Pastoral Council meeting in December. Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 27, 2014.

The next Executive Committee meeting is on Monday, January 20, at 7:15 PM.
The prayer leader at the January meeting will be Pam Duessing.
Respectfully submitted: Leo Schneider.