

Minutes, St. Dominic Pastoral Council
October 22, 2012

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

All members were present at this meeting; there were no guests in attendance.

1. Fr. Phil led the opening prayer.
2. Fr. Phil explained that this 20 member Council is provisional in its current form until May or June, 2013. At that time the number of members will be reduced to 15 and the Council will be formally commissioned. The Council will consist of 12, at-large members, Fr. Phil, and the two Parish Trustees. Fr. Phil also stated that online training for pastoral council members is now being formulated and may be available as early as January, 2013.
3. Meeting protocols have been established. The agenda will be drawn up by the Council officers and Fr. Phil. This will take place on the 3rd Monday of the month, at 7:45 PM, in the Volz Lounge. The Council meeting will be held on the 4th Monday of the month, at 7:00 PM, in the Aquinas Room. An effort will be made to limit meetings to 90 minutes or less. All meetings will be open to interested parishioners.
4. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the officers of this provisional council would be:
Chairperson - Jeanne Bitkers
Vice-Chairperson - Kathy Pluskat
Secretary - Leo Schneider
New officers will be elected after the Council's official formation in late spring.
5. Fr. Phil stated that he wishes to have Council liaison ties to the following committees:
 - A. Prayer and Worship
 - B. Christian Formation
 - C. Human Concerns
 - D. Stewardship
 - E. School
 - F. Finance Council (2)
 - G. District 9 (representing all Sheboygan County Parishes to the Archdiocese)
 - F. Synod 2014

There was discussion about duties and responsibilities of all these groups. Fr. Phil had envisioned a possible liaison to the Board of the Sheboygan Leadership Academy. However, given that group's former ties to St. Dominic Parish and the fact that it is now a part of the public school district, it was felt that a liaison from our council may raise church/state separation questions. Fr. Phil would like to see a liaison to the School Board of the Elizabeth Ann Seton School and he mentioned that three of our

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parish members, Mary Jante, Denise Goebel, and Rene Zenk are on that Board. There was also a discussion that one of the primary goals of the Stewardship Committee would be to update the Parish Directory. Several members expressed interests in being liaisons to these committees; it was decided that these postings would be decided at our next meeting.

6. Fr. Phil prefaced the discussion the Synod 2014 by passing out a handout explaining the proceedings. It is to be an assembly of ordained and lay leaders from all parishes in the Archdiocese. This group will deliberate the pastoral needs of the Archdiocese, including the charting the future direction of the Archdiocese. Study and planning sessions will lead up to the actual synod, which will be held on June 7 - 9, 2014. After the synod, Archbishop Listecki will issue a "synodal declaration", identifying goals, priorities, and recommendations for implementing the visions of the synod.
7. The next item discussed was an "Evening of Reflection" for the Council, to be held on Monday, December 10, at 7:00 PM. The topic would center on the message of the Archangel Gabriel.
8. Other Business
 - A. Fr. Phil briefly discussed the status of the Archdiocesan bankruptcy process. A savings-like fund known as the "Parish Deposit Fund" was disbanded in 2004/2005 and the monies returned to the parishes to which they belonged. They could then bank or invest these funds elsewhere. They would then not be subject to claims in the lawsuits against the Archdiocese or be frozen and unavailable in the event of the Archdiocese entering into bankruptcy proceedings. The attorneys for the creditors are also trying to say that the "Cemetery Trust Fund" and the "Faith In Our Future Fund" should also be available for the reimbursement of victims; the lawyers for the Archdiocese are fighting to bar these monies from the settlement.
 - B. A discussion was held on the upcoming retirement of Fr. Jim Connell, pastor of Holy name and St. Clement Parishes, in June of 2013. At this time there is no guarantee that a priest will be appointed to replace him. This could mean that Fr. Phil could be pastor here at St. Dominic and Administrator of the other two north-side parishes. Many questions about this situation remain unanswered.
9. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.
Our next meeting will be Monday, November 26, at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Leo Schneider