

Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes Annual Meeting  
February 25, 2019  
St. Dominic Church

Attached to this correspondence you will find the agenda and corresponding committee reports from the Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes. The committee reports include 2018 Accomplishments and 2019 Goals. Reference to the committee reports will be made throughout these minutes.

**Welcome** - Fr. Matthew Widder (at 6:30 PM)

**Opening Prayer** - Fr. Matthew Widder

**Overview** - Fr. Matthew Widder

According to the "traditional" model, parishes are provided an update via an annual meeting. The annual meeting gives Committee Chairs (or their representatives) the opportunity to highlight accomplishments from the past year and list goals for the coming year.

**Pastoral Council Overview** - Jeanne Bitkers - Chairperson

A note of thanks was extended to Don Holmes and Pat Dinolfo for their leadership over the past year. There were two reasons for the meeting this evening: 1) Regular monthly meeting (4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month) for our SNCP Pastoral Council, and 2) According to State law, since we are "legally" a corporation, an annual meeting must be offered. There are three officer positions within our corporation - 1) Archbishop, 2) Pastor and 3) Trustees (2 per parish). If present, trustees from each parish were asked to stand for acknowledgment. These officers comprise the "decision making body" of our Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes. The role of our Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes Pastoral Council is to serve in an "advisory" capacity - to listen and provide input into the development of an annual plan that promotes evangelization and fosters stewardship.

**Pastoral Council Committee Reports**

1A. Northside Faith Formation - Tina Rautmann

**Mission-** Bringing families closer to their Catholic faith and into the Church, through education and engaging events throughout the year, as well as helping students prepare to receive sacraments.

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**Accomplishments this past year-**

- Hired Jacqueline Guilbeault, as the new youth minister, for middle and high school. She is doing a great job with our middle and high school programs!
- Through partnership with parents, **51** students received their 1<sup>st</sup> reconciliation this past December (2018) and those same **51** students will be receiving their first Eucharist at St. Clements, Holy Name of Jesus, and St. Dominic at the end of April and beginning of May (2019).
- **Fifty** high school students received the sacrament of confirmation this past fall (2018). Currently, **46** high school students are preparing for confirmation, which they will receive in November (2019).
- Two big events are coming up - Mardi Gras and Vacation Bible School. Children from all three parishes are invited and encouraged to attend both events.

Mardi Gras - this year (2019), generous donations of food are being offered by Texas Roadhouse and Piggly Wiggly; drink donation from McDonalds. The event will start with the burning of palms, and then proceed to the PAC for games, crafts, and food. This event is planned for Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

VBS - June 17-21, 2019, from 9 AM-noon. The PAC (SD) and school will be transformed into the theme - "Roar! Life is Wild, God is Good!" The PAC and school will be transformed into a jungle. At VBS, the kids have fun dancing, doing science experiments, playing outdoor games, learning about Bible stories, and having snacks. Every year, around 100 children participate, plus several teen and adult helpers.

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**Goals-**

To have increased participation at mass and other church activities. We want to see our children in church!

We would also like our Faith Formation committee to grow in members. Please consider joining us at one of our meetings to help brainstorm and implement ideas to help meet our goals.

Our goal every year is to better our Faith Formation program so that parents and children feel a sense of belonging and want to be part of their faith community. One way you can help with this goal is to give our young families a warm smile when you see them at church and to keep them in your prayers, particularly those who have been away or who are timid or resistant.

**1B. Evangelization -- Kate Nienhuis**

Evangelization is "everything that we do as a parish! It is sharing our love for Christ through our actions." Some of the various programs that were implemented this past year that fostered Evangelization include:

Walking with Purpose

Men's and Women's Bible Study

Little Rock Scripture Study

Wake Up to Your Faith

Warm the World (Quilt) Project

Thanksgiving Food Box Drive

St. Vincent DePaul - "Bridges out of Poverty" initiative

Partner Prayer Program

Monthly Book Club

Catholic Book Program - distribution of free books and CDs

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2. Prayer & Worship - Joe Leonhard

For a list of committee members, 2018 Accomplishments and 2019 Goals, please refer to attachment. Please note that all three parishes have their "individual" Prayer & Worship committees, but come together at least twice a year to hold "joint" meetings. Effort has been made to increase "collaboration" among all three parishes in the liturgical planning process.

3. Stewardship - Mike Short

For a list of committee members, 2018 Accomplishments and 2019 Goals, please refer to attachment. The main accomplishment has been the formation of a committee (12 members) that is now comprised of representatives from all three Northside parishes. This committee is in the initial stages of the goal setting process. Major emphasis will be placed on improving welcoming and hospitality among all three parishes.

4. Human Concerns - Pat Schmidt

Please refer to attachment for a list of 2018 Accomplishments and 2019 Goals. Pat mentioned the subcommittees that comprise the St. Dominic Human Concerns Committee: Elizabeth Ministry, Emmaus Meal, Rainbow Kids, Homebound, St. Vincent DePaul, Senior Ministry, Food Pantry, and SNCP Pastoral Council liaison. Holy Name of Jesus initiated an Elizabeth Ministry program this past year. Of special mention is the effort made by the Human Concerns committees from all three parishes to work "collaboratively" on some projects, such as the Thanksgiving Food Box outreach project, the Advent Tree of Hope project, and the Refugee/Immigrant outreach project.

5. Hispanic Committee - Beatriz Garcia

Please refer to attachment for a list of 2018 Accomplishments and 2019 Goals. A major accomplishment of this committee was successfully organizing two spiritual retreats - one for Hispanic men, and one for Hispanic women.

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6. Pastoral Council Goals (and three proposed action steps for each) -  
Michele Konrad, Vice Chairperson

- A. WELCOMING others to celebrate our Faith (the Mass)
  - 1. Website update (combine all three parishes into one)
  - 2. Mass greeters at all three parishes
  - 3. Introduce new members at Mass
  
- B. Emphasizing PARTICIPATION AND OUR GIFT of the SACRAMENTS
  - 1. Catechesis
  - 2. RCIA process
  - 3. Prayer Partner Program
  
- C. Answering OUR CALL TO SERVE (Refugee/Immigrant Outreach Project)
  - 1. Encourage participation in Cinco De Mayo celebration (to learn more about the Hispanic culture).
  - 2. Explore the possibility of bringing Marquette University law students to Sheboygan to consult with Hispanic immigrants interested in pursuing citizenship.
  - 3. Explore the possibility of implementing a Laundry Love project.

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School** - Dr. Mark Bettag - Chairperson

This past year, the school received a grant to improve school safety/security. A full-time advanced math teacher was hired. The school now has a Dean of Students. There are several components to the Faith Development Committee including, but not limited to: 1) monthly recitation of the Rosary, 2) monthly Adoration, 3) Pilgrimages, 4) Volunteer Bible Study opportunities, and 5) Opportunities to lead Stations of the Cross during Lent, and participate in the Living Stations during Lent.

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**Finance Councils** - Tom Dinolfo - Director of Administrative Services

Tom was recently hired as the new Director of Administrative Services for our SNCP. In this capacity, he oversees the administrative services and property management for all three parishes. He expressed his appreciation for the number of committed volunteers at all three parishes. Presently, there are 2,700 families enrolled in our SNCP - 1,100 families at Holy Name of Jesus, 600 families at St. Clement, and 1,000 families at St. Dominic. Approximately 50% of enrollees at St. Clement are Hispanic. These 2,700 families are equal to 8,000 individual parishioners. All three parishes are financially sound. In terms of operating expenses, 36% of our budget goes towards salaries and wages; 32% goes towards support of Seton school; 8% goes towards our Northside Faith Formation programs; 5% goes towards the support of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and 19% goes towards utilities, supplies, maintenance and outside services. In terms of actual dollar amounts, \$452,000 goes to support Seton school—this amounts to \$2,500 per student; \$140,000 goes to support our Northside Faith Formation programs; \$600,000 for the support of Catholic education (all levels). In terms of property management, St. Clement Church built a new stairway this past year. St. Dominic will need to replace the Church roof. Holy Name of Jesus will need to look at repairing stained glass windows in the Church. In conclusion, Tom thanked everyone for giving of their "time, talent and treasure."

Jeanne Bitkers offered thanks to the staff at all three parishes, along with our two pastors - Fr. Matthew Widder and Fr. Gideon Buya.

**Questions and Answers** - Fr. Matthew Widder

- 1) Does Fr. Gideon know where his new assignment will be? As of this meeting, Fr. Gideon does not know. He has visited a few parishes within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee (including Random Lake) that are in need of a Pastor, but nothing has been determined. Hopefully by Easter, he will know. Fr. Matthew indicated that our Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes will definitely get a new Associate Pastor; probably a newly ordained priest.

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- 2) Can each parishioner receive a financial statement from their respective parish? For this year, please contact your Parish Office, if you wish to have a copy. This may need to be reevaluated for next year.
- 3) Comment by a parishioner, "We could do better at reaching out to our parishioners, and having more individuals involved in parish activities. Right now, as we all know, about 10% of our parishioners volunteer to do 90% of our ministries. Increased communication would result in more people working together, and decreasing duplication of services."
- 4) In terms of the elderly living at home alone, do we visit them? Offer Communion? We do have Home Communion ministers. The best way to get the word out, is to let your Parish Office know of a parishioner that may benefit by this ministry. In addition to receiving Communion, the parishioner is also offered a Church bulletin.

Fr. Matthew extended a thank you to everyone that was able to attend the SNCP annual meeting tonight.

*Closing Prayer* - Fr. Gideon Buya

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Laura Graney

SNCP Pastoral Council Recording Secretary