

Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes  
Pastoral Council Meeting in Dominican Hall  
Minutes 3-25-19  
Modified on 4-22-19

Present: Father Matthew Widder, Father Gideon Buya, Vern Baus, Jeanne Bitkers, Tom Clarke, Mary Dalhaimer, Laura Graney, Mary Greeneway, Don Holmes, Jane Kautzer, Kym Leibham, Joe Leonhard, Mary Petrie, Jeremy Rauwerdink, Bea Van Geffen

Excused: Brad Bulkow, Rosa Flores, Rhonda Fouts, Steve Heun, Vince Karls, Michele Konrad, Kate Nienhuis, and Steve Scharrer

Prior to the official start of the meeting, Chairperson Jeanne Bitkers took the opportunity to welcome Mary Dalhaimer to our SNCP Pastoral Council as the new SC Trustee representative. SNCP Pastoral Council members were asked to silently read our Mission Statement and take a moment of reflection. Jeanne offered a note of "thanks" to all SNCP Pastoral Council members for saying "Yes!" to our call to serve.

Chairperson Jeanne Bitkers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Jeanne Bitkers, read to us an opening prayer, provided by Vince Karls (who was not able to be present tonight).

Exploring Our Bulletin/Parish Communications: SNCP Pastoral Council Members were asked to break into three workgroups to examine our bulletin from the viewpoint of either a visitor, a new parish member, or an experienced parishioner. After working in our small workgroups, one representative from each group was asked to report back to the group at large, regarding things that promote good communication in the bulletin, and things that could improve bulletin communications. Worksheets were asked to be turned into our Chairperson. Mary Petrie explained the process (from start to finish) in producing our bulletin. Kym Leibham will spearhead a committee to begin work on one combined SNCP website. Our bulletin needs to support the website and vice versa.

Consent Agenda: The consent agenda containing the February 11, 2019 SNCP Pastoral Council meeting minutes and all Committee Reports (from February 2019 to the present) were approved.

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Financial reports have been received by SD and HNJ Council members. SC reports are forthcoming.

Pastors' Reports:

Father Matthew mentioned that our parishioners have several opportunities for spiritual growth during this Lenten season including the Living Stations and the Scripture and Soup Suppers series. The Archbishop's Lenten Luncheon was held earlier today. It was well attended! Tom Dinolfo has started his new position as Director of Administrative Services. One of the first things that Tom will be doing is offering suggestions on how to modify the workload of Mary Petrie and Laura TeWinkle, to accommodate their desire to "step back" to part-time. We are in the process of hiring a Bookkeeper/Business Manager. Second interviews will be conducted soon.

Fr. Gideon described the steps that he is/or will be partaking in during this "Pastoral Transition" period. He has started visiting a few parishes in southeastern Wisconsin where he may be interested in serving as Pastor. Fr. Gideon was asked to describe what happens when he visits at these parishes. He stated that he meets with the pastor and staff. He inquires about whether or not there is a school associated with the parish. He is looking for a sense of community. SNCP Council members asked Fr. Gideon if there was anything that we can do to support the Associate Pastor? He stated that we should be deliberate and intentional in our "welcoming"; welcome the Associate Pastor to our homes and our committees. The Archbishop will have the final say in terms of where Fr. Gideon will be reassigned. For now, Fr. Gideon wants to "live in the moment".

Fr. Gideon mentioned that there will be a Hispanic Men's Retreat held next weekend in Campbellsport. About 80 men are interested in attending; 5 from Sheboygan. Please hold them in your prayers.

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Old Business:

- 1) The Annual Parish Meeting held on February 25, 2019 was poorly attended. The presentation format was nicely done; brief and concise! A suggestion was offered to condense the handout from six pages into one (back to back) page; include this handout as an insert in the bulletin and post on the website. It would also be advantageous to include financial information within this handout. It was recommended to always offer the Annual Parish Meeting in February.
- 2) In terms of the new "welcoming" initiative, HNJ has begun having greeters present at Masses this month. Mary Petrie described the plan developed for "welcoming" new parishioners that have joined HNJ within the past 6 months. The first "welcoming" Mass/social was held yesterday. Seventeen individuals/families attended, which represented 40% of the new parishioners contacted. Fr. Matthew did a great job with the blessing and the social was well received! The goal is to have periodic contact with the attendees to facilitate their engagement.

New Business:

- 1) New Pastoral Council Members Discernment Process - Don Holmes. The "ideal" composition of the SNCP Pastoral Council will consist of 4 members from each parish, 6 trustees and 2 priests, for a total of 20 members. We presently stand at 22 members: 6 from HNJ; 6 from SD; 2 from SC; 6 trustees; 2 priests. Mary Petrie serves as the staff liaison. We will be seeking **three** parishioners from SC to join our SNCP Pastoral Council for the new fiscal year (2019-20). Don would like one SNCP Pastoral Council member from each parish to be on the Discernment Committee. Ideally, potential new SNCP Pastoral Council members will be identified by the end of May 2019.
- 2) Vision/Goals for the Future (2019-20 and beyond). We will need to look at long range goals in April and May.

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3) Coming Events:

- Farewell Social for Fr. Gideon. We need to get a date on the calendar, as Fr. Gideon's last day with us will be June 16, 2019. Council members interested in planning this event were encouraged to stay a few minutes after the conclusion of tonight's meeting to begin brainstorming.
- Catholic College Fair will be held on April 7, 2019 at St. John Evangelist Church in Kohler. Chairperson Jeanne Bitkers circulated a flier promoting this event and encouraged all Council members to help with publicity.
- The New Evangelization Summit will be held on May 4, 2019 at St. John the Baptist in Plymouth. The event will be live-streamed from Ottawa, Canada. There is no fee to attend, by registration is required.

Next Meeting: April 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. Clement Parish/Dominican Hall @ 6:30 PM.

Reports for the Consent Agenda are due by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Please send to [laura9326@charter.net](mailto:laura9326@charter.net).

Closing Prayer: Laura Graney led us in a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Graney, recording secretary