

Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes
Pastoral Council Meeting held virtually via Zoom
Minutes 5-4-20

Pastoral Council Members Present: Fr. Matthew Widder, Fr. Norberto Sandoval, Jeanne Bitkers, Vern Baus, Brad Bulkow, Tom Clarke, Mary Dalhaimer, Laura Graney, Mary Greeneway, Steve Heun, Don Holmes, Michele Konrad, Kym Leibham, Kate Nienhuis, Mary Petrie, Chris Roenitz, Steve Scharrer, and Anne Skowlund

Excused Council Members: Tom Dinolfo, Rosa Flores, Oscar Valdez, and Bea Van Geffen

Guest: Jacqueline Guilbeault

Opening Prayer: Fr. Matthew - Psalm 136 - "Give Thanks to the Lord"
Prayer Intentions - "For all those we love".
New Pastor Announcement: Fr. Mark Brandl

Welcome: Chair Michele Konrad welcomed Council members and called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

Recap of SNCP Response to Virus:

1. What's working?

Laura reported on the success of our Northside Christian Food Pantry - implemented a walk-up/drive through service, deliveries to our elderly, disabled and homebound parishioners, as well as others within our community who are "sheltering in place" at this time, parishioners have been very generous in terms of donations of cash and non-perishable food items. See attached handout for more details.

Jeanne reported on the initiation of "Project Outreach". This project was started approximately two weeks ago. During the first week, Council members were encouraged to contact people "we may not have contacted before", via phone call, card, letter, email, etc. to find out how they were doing. Although not able to be present on our virtual meeting this evening, Bea reported that she has made contact with 200+ people via the Woman's Charity Club. Last week, the circle of "Project Outreach" was extended to SCNP staff. And for this coming week, the circle will be extended to include SNCP Committee Chairs. Jeanne offered thanks to Chris Roenitz and Mary Dalhaimer in helping to get this project "off the ground".

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Kym noted that in terms of social media, more opportunities to make our SNCP "visible" have been made via Facebook and YouTube. You can help to encourage this "growth", by making sure you utilize the "like" and "share" icons on our SNCP Facebook page. You can access many SNCP prayer and worship opportunities featured on YouTube, such as Sunday Mass, the Rosary, and Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, directly from links on our SNCP website.

2. What could be done?

Kym reported that starting tomorrow, short 60 second "Stewardship Matters" video snippets were going to be launched on our SNCP Facebook page. The goal is to air two segments each week (on Tuesdays and Thursdays) highlighting various ministries being implemented by our SNCP, and why volunteers have chosen to be involved with these ministries. Tomorrow, there will be a segment about our Northside Christian Food Pantry. On Thursday, our Women's Bible Study will be featured. So far, three volunteers have committed to participate.

Maybe it is time to send out another mailing? There may be segments of our parishes that are feeling "out of touch", if they lack access to a computer, or have not been "reached" via contact from our "Project Outreach" or "Elderly Outreach" initiatives.

3. What should we be aware of? Nothing was noted at this time.

Update from the Archdiocese on Reopening Churches: Fr. Matthew led a discussion on the following items:

- Hope to open Churches May 30th/31st - Pentecost (this is dependent on where the State of Wisconsin is in terms of "safely" opening up).
- First step of the implementation guidelines states that the Churches cannot accommodate more than 25% capacity (HNJ -200, SC - 100, SD - 200).
- People (age 60+) will be encouraged to stay "safely" at home, and not attend Mass yet. Dispensation is extended through July 5th.
- How will we designate which pews at Church people should sit in or not sit in? Need to "rope off" every second or third pew.

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- How will people "register" to attend Mass? On-line? Call Parish Office? How do we make pews available for walk-ins?
- Each parish will need to form a new ministry responsible for cleaning Church after every Mass. A Sign-up Genius format will probably be developed for signing up volunteers. *Note: This is the most important item to be addressed at this time.
- How will we handle communications to people 60+ years of age? Keep in mind, that many of them do not own a computer. Presently, we mail out 110 SNCP Bulletins each week.
- Which entrances will be utilized at each Church, to "safely" allow parishioners to enter and exit? Maybe, we should look at offering recitation of the Rosary or Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, to encourage some parishioners to arrive early, and not have everyone gather right before the start of Mass?
- Priests will not be allowed to celebrate more than three Masses per Sunday. Maybe, we will need to add an additional Mass on Saturday evening?
- How will people who are not "registered" with the Church, be welcomed back?
- These items will be deliberated further at the SNCP Staff meeting tomorrow, as well as the combined Northside Prayer & Worship Committee meeting tomorrow night.

Future Food Pantry Location: Prior to the pandemic, the bulk of food pantry operations occurred in the basement of the rectory at SD. Presently, to keep participants and volunteers "safe", participants walk up to the garage, to receive their pre-packaged bag of groceries.

Some concerns with the present "pre-pandemic" set-up:

- Hard to maintain "safe" social distancing. Need to get out of the basement.
- The Sheboygan County Food Bank would like the food pantries to move towards a "fill your own bag" practice, so that participants have more of a choice in the selection of food items.
- Hard wear and tear on volunteer bodies; constant running up and down the stairs. Our volunteer base is aging.
- Hard to deal with the elements. Sometimes, participants have to stand out in the rain/snow, to wait their turn.

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Possible solution: Move the food pantry operation to the Aquinas Room at SD.

- A lot of meetings that used to be held in this room, have already moved to alternative meeting rooms, such as the Volz Lounge or the Francis Room (rectory).
- An opportunity to give participants more dignity by being able to "fill their own bags".

Pastoral Transition Team: Fr. Matthew announced that Fr. Mark Brandl has been appointed as our new Pastor, effective August 4, 2020. Anne Skowlund volunteered to be the SC Pastoral Council representative to our SNCP Transition Team. We are still in need of one "at large" member from SC to join this team. Council members stated that it would be ideal to have someone from the Hispanic community on board. Fr. Norbie indicated that he had a few people in mind, and would let Michele know by the end of the week, who indicated interest in this position.

Present composition of the Pastoral Transition Team:

Tom Dinolfo - Staff (SC)
Mary Petrie - Staff (HNJ)
Lori Woelfel - Staff
Laura TeWinkle - Staff (SD)
Don Holmes - PC (SD)
Edie Morrison - (SD)
Kym Leibham - PC (HNJ)
Bea Van Geffen - (HNJ)
Anne Skowlund - PC (SC)
??? At large member (SC)

Pastoral Council Discernment: Don described the steps that should be taken during the discernment process. Mary Petrie indicated a willingness to search the records at HNJ, to find a nomination form. The following positions need to be filled by July 1, 2020: HNJ - 1; SC - 1; SD - 2. All of these positions will be for a 3 year term. Don volunteered to head the Discernment Committee. He would like 3 more Pastoral Council members to join him, if possible. Someone needs to verify with Bea, if she is willing to serve another three years on the Pastoral Council. Maybe Anne Skowlund will consider renewing as well? Anne stated that she would have to give this some thought. Information needs to be developed and printed in our SNCP Bulletin, as well as posted on our SNCP website and Facebook page, so that parishioners may discern if they have been called to serve in this capacity. Maybe a current Pastoral

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Council member would be willing to record a "Stewardship Matters" video clip on why they said "Yes!" when asked to serve on the Council.

175th Anniversary - HNJ - Aug. 24, 2020: We probably do not need to act on this task immediately. As the actual anniversary date is in August, maybe the "kick off" (if a full year event is planned), could be in September 2020?

Several suggestions were offered regarding composition of the Anniversary Planning Committee and events to include:

- A representative from every HNJ committee?
- No more than 10 people total?
- Include one parishioner from SC and one parishioner from SD, to that there is truly one SNCP?
- Need for a leader for this committee? Maybe a Pastoral Council member?
- Any "takeaways" from the 150th anniversary? Something contained within the archives?

Further discernment of this topic recommended for May 2020.

Approval of the Feb. 24, 2020 SNCP Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes, March 2020 and April 2020 SNCP Committee Reports: Motion was made to accept the Feb. 24, 2020 SNCP Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes, March 2020 and April 2020 SNCP Committee Reports. Motion passed unanimously. Jacqueline will reach out to Laura TeWinkle to get all previous SNCP Meeting Minutes posted on our new SNCP website.

Next Meeting: Unknown

Michele and Fr. Matthew to determine what one or two items to feature on agenda and schedule meeting date.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Norbie

Conclusion of Meeting: 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Graney recording secretary