

Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes  
Pastoral Council Meeting held via Zoom  
Minutes 1-25-21  
Approved: 2-22-21

**Pastoral Council Members Present:** Fr. Mark Brandl, Fr. Norberto Sandoval, Vern Baus, Jeanne Bitkers, Tom Clarke, Mary Dalhaimer, Tom Dinolfo, Laura Graney, Mary Greenway, Michele Konrad, Kym Leibham, Bob Mair, Mary Petrie, Chris Roenitz, Rebecca Rupnick, Kevin Sander, Anne Skowlund and Oscar Valdez

**Excused Council Members:** Brad Bulkow, Brett Goebel and Michael Johnson

**Welcome:** Chair Michele Konrad called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

**Opening Prayer:** Laura Graney

**Mission and Vision Statements:** Read aloud by all Council members.

**Consent Agenda:** Minutes from November 23, 2020, and November 2020, December 2020 and January 2021 Committee Reports.

A couple of questions were raised pertaining to information contained within the Prayer & Worship Committee Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2021:

- 1) Will only one Mass be held at 12:10 PM on Ash Wednesday (proposed site--SC)? Discussion ensued around the fact that in the past, a Mass or Service was held at SD at 12:10 PM. This was very popular, especially with Catholics that worked at businesses within the area that could attend the Service on their "lunch hour" and return back to work on time. Response: The reason that only Mass was recommended for 12:10 PM, this year, is based on the numbers that attended Masses during the Christmas season, and the fact that Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation. We may need to revise this recommendation for next year, after we see what the attendance on Ash Wednesday is this year.
  
- 2) Will only one Mass be held on Holy Saturday -- Easter Vigil (proposed site - HNJ)? Discussion ensued around the fact that in the past, an Easter Vigil Mass was also held at SD. Response: It was decided that only one Mass in English would be offered on Holy Thursday. This will be held at SD. A Spanish Mass will be offered on Holy Thursday at SC. All Churches will be open for Adoration, on Holy Thursday, following the Mass at SD, until 10 PM. All three Churches will offer Good Friday Services. And, the Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil Mass will be offered at HNJ. This will be a bilingual Mass.

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- 3) Will Home Communion once again be offered to parishioners that are in local hospitals or nursing homes? Response: We are waiting for information from the hospitals and nursing homes, that it is now "safe" to offer Holy Communion at their facilities. And, we are waiting for our Pastors to receive the Covid vaccination.

\*Note: Fr. Norbie commented that we have now received further direction from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in regards to how ashes will be distributed on Ash Wednesday. This year, blessed ashes will be sprinkled over the whole head.

- 4) A few Council members that have connections to the Human Concerns Committee at their respective parishes, received an email this afternoon that provided a description of the proposed Lenten Scripture series for 2021. Chris Roenitz asked if an update could be provided. Response from Laura: Details are still being worked out. But, what is being proposed, is that Mass (at 6 PM), with a Lenten Scripture presentation (from 6:45 PM to 7:30 PM), will be offered on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at SD. The presenters are associated with Roncalli. No Soup Suppers this year, due to Covid restrictions. SD was selected as they have the screens and PowerPoint projectors to facilitate the speakers' presentations. Also, the Church at SD should be able to accommodate the anticipated attendance, keeping social distancing guidelines in mind. That may or may not be true for SC - Dominican Hall, where previous Lenten Scripture presentations have been held. Refer to New Business section of minutes for further details.

- After no further discussion, motion made by Michele Konrad to approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimously approved.

**Pastor Report:** Fr. Mark

Fr. Mark indicated that the email containing information pertaining to the "Gift of Sunday" document and corresponding study guide, arrived in his inbox today. He has only had the opportunity to print the document. He has not had time to read it yet. But, at first glance, it appears very "technical" in nature.

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Jeanne Bitkers added her insight on this particular document. She agreed with Fr. Mark that it looked very "technical". It would have been nice to have seen examples of practical application. The premise behind the document and study guide, is to explore ways to encourage people to come back to Mass.

\*Recommendation: To try to get a copy of this document and accompanying study guide in Spanish. Should be available at the Archdiocese of Milwaukee website.

Fr. Mark will be having cataract surgeries - 1) First surgery - Feb. 24, 2021 and 2) Second surgery - March 10, 2021. Please keep Fr. Mark in your prayers.

**Associate Pastor Report:** Fr. Norbie

Fr. Norbie is continuing his mission to foster increased communication among the Hispanic community and the Caucasian community at our Northside parishes. He reports that the Hispanic community is not returning yet, to their various committees. Fortunately, this is not due to Covid. But, unfortunately, other illnesses have impacted members of our Hispanic community. Fr. Norbie is hoping to recruit members of the Hispanic community that are bilingual to these committees, so that in the near future, they can work together with members of the Anglo community who work on similar committees within our Northside parishes. Fr. Norbie has invited Fr. Mark and Michele Konrad, SNCP Pastoral Council Chair, to the next Junta meeting, to be held on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM in Dominican Hall at SC. Fr. Mark and Michele will be trying to convey the message that "we are all one", when it comes to our Northside parishes. We are a "community" of believers. Kevin Sander asked if he would also have permission to attend this Junta meeting? Response: Yes! The same is true for any other interested Council members.

**Plan of Action:**

a. Faith Formation/Evangelization: Kevin Sander

Kevin remarked, that in terms of faith formation for our children, things are "going well".

At our last SNCP Pastoral Council meeting held in November 2020, permission was given, by Council members, to have Kevin (and a newly formed committee) investigate the possibility of holding a "big" speaker event in 2021. Looking at

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fall (probably to coincide with Advent). The venue for this event will probably be the Weill Center or the Kohler Fine Arts Center. The goal would be to have 1100 attendees partake of this event. To make this a revenue neutral event, attendees will be asked to pay an admittance fee. To date, several Northside parishioners, Pastors and staff have been suggested to become members of a committee that will determine the theme and speaker at this event: Steve Heun (HNJ), Olivia O'Keefe (HNJ), Michele Konrad (HNJ), Natalee Mueller (SD), Kate Nienhuis (SD), Anna Stankewitz (ECHO Student), Fr. Mark, Fr. Norbie, Mary Petrie (staff) and Lulu Torres (staff). In addition to, or in place of Lulu Torres, are there other members of the Hispanic community that could join this committee? Other SC parishioners? Please let Kevin know.

Once the theme and speaker have been determined, then this production will be turned over to a second committee (names to be determined), to plan and implement the event.

Commentary: Fr. Norbie mentioned that he typically meets with Lulu Torres on Thursdays. They will "put their heads together", to try and come up with a couple of names from the Hispanic community that could join this committee. Kevin also mentioned, that it is hoped that members of our Hispanic community, will be able to utilize their smart phones during the actual "live streamed" event, to hear the presentation translated in Spanish.

In the past, an "Advent by Candlelight" event for women, was held (usually first Tuesday of December). Will the theme and timing of this "big speaker" event, potentially conflict with this event? Unknown at present. But, it is hoped that both events would be "different" and "independent" of each other, so that both can be held.

Should the theme of the "big speaker" event be determined prior to our Advent 2021 theme for our Northside parishes? Or, should the Advent 2021 theme for our Northside parishes be determined prior to the "big speaker" event? It might be easier if the theme for the "big speaker" event was determined first, and then the Northside parishes could choose an Advent 2021 theme that complements this topic.

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Kym Leibham offered the following suggestion: It may be beneficial to look for a Christian musician, instead of a Catholic speaker. Kevin will offer this suggestion to his committee.

b. Communications: Kym Leibham

Kym mentioned that the Communications Committee is beginning to look at one quarter at a time, instead of trying to take on too much. Presently, Lent is on the forefront of their minds. The emphasis will be prayer and Christian acts of charity. We continue looking at ways to develop the "local" content of our Facebook page. Fr. Mark has been doing a great job with his weekly YouTube updates to parishioners. They seem to be well received! Maybe, we could record guided tours of our three Northside Churches, as they prepare for the beginning of Lent (similar to what we did prior to Christmas)? This was also very well received by parishioners! Frank Trcka plans to do a segment on the restoration of the organ at HNJ. Dr. Nardi plans to develop a piece to be utilized on our SNCP website, as well as the school website and social media. Presently, only Jacqueline and one other person have access to posting information on our SNCP Facebook account. It is probably a good idea to limit access to these two individuals.

Jeanne Bitkers is leading a subcommittee to look at written communications. At this time, emphasis is on our SNCP bulletin. Members of this subcommittee, are reviewing copies of our bulletins, as well as those produced by other parishes. Their main goal is to look at ways of enhancing the communication relayed to our parishioners via this outlet. They plan to meet with Tom, as well as members of our staff, to gather more information, in this quest.

Another member of the Communications Committee, is tracking our SNCP website analytics, especially the viewing of YouTube recordings. There is a need to look at developing either a separate Hispanic SNCP website or page to our present SNCP website. The Google translating option does not appear to be the best feature to utilize when communicating with our Hispanic community.

Kym acknowledged that the Communications Committee realizes that parishioners need to be surveyed regarding their preferences in receiving correspondence from our parishes -- i.e., phone, email, texts, bulletins, letters, Facebook, etc. So, stay tuned!

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Tom mentioned that Jeanne Bitkers, Edie Morrison and himself had the opportunity to participate in an Archdiocesan webinar on utilizing electronic communications (emails and texts) with parishioners. There really wasn't any consensus on the "perfect" way of communicating. The general comment was "keep experimenting". Tom mentioned that we just acquired the rights to Flocknote. Flocknote is a text messaging email tool. Now, we need to develop the structure to utilize this format, with our parishioners.

Fr. Norbie suggested the following website for members of the Communications Committee to investigate - [www.myparishapp.com](http://www.myparishapp.com). He felt that this website was very "cohesive", in fostering good communication.

c. Human Concerns - Laura

Laura mentioned that our Human Concerns Committees have been very busy as evidenced by the numerous successful outreach projects conducted between Advent and Christmas! The main reason for asking that Human Concerns be included as an agenda item for this meeting, is to remind Council members that we are still seeking a new Committee Chair or recommitment of the person that was serving in this capacity at SC. Maybe Fr. Norbie could recruit a "bilingual" representative from the Hispanic community that could serve not only on the Hispanic Human Concerns Committee, but as the Chair or Co-Chair for the Human Concerns Committee at SC?

Speaking of a "concern", it should be noted that our Stewardship Committee is still seeking parishioners from HNJ and SC, to join this committee. Please forward any names to Mike Short, Chair.

**Financial Reports:** Council members are reminded to direct any financial questions or concerns to their respective parish trustees or liaisons.

**Committee Liaisons:** Michele Konrad

Item tabled for tonight. Just a reminder that openings still exist for a Seton School Board liaison, as well as a Deanery Rep from SC.

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**New Business:**

Mary Petrie elaborated a little more regarding the proposed Lenten Scripture series. Each of the three parishes, along with our Pastoral Council, will be asked to "host" one evening, of this four-part series. HNJ will be the "host" on March 2<sup>nd</sup>; SNCP Pastoral Council will be the "host" on March 9<sup>th</sup>; SD will be the "host" on March 16<sup>th</sup>; and SC will be the "host" on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Duties of the "hosts" include: 1) Providing "Greeters" at the 6 PM Mass, 2) Providing a name tag for the representatives from the "host" parish or Council that are volunteering for various functions that evening, 3) Providing one "Lector" for the 6 PM Mass, 4) Providing one "Eucharistic Minister" for the 6 PM Mass, 5) Handing out water bottles to attendees that will be listening to the Scripture presentation, 6) Providing an emcee to introduce the guest speaker, 7) Setting out rice bowls to collect monetary donations from attendees, 8) Putting out boxes to collect food donations for our Northside Food Pantry, and 9) Providing four to six volunteers to sanitize SD following the presentation. Fr. Mark and Fr. Dave Beaudry will each be celebrant at one of the 6 PM Masses, and Fr. Norbie will be celebrant at two of the Masses. Mary Petrie indicated that she would send out the email referenced earlier that contains all of these details to Council members.

**Old Business:**

1. Pastoral Council Information: Just a reminder to send a photo of yourself to Michele, for posting on our SNCP website.
2. Pastoral Council "Appendix" to the Norms - Laura indicated that she did "batch" all of the Northside Finance Council "Appendices", along with our Pastoral Council "Appendix" to the Norms and sent them to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Michele mentioned that due to time constraints (the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline and the fact that our Council was not meeting again until January 25<sup>th</sup> ), it was necessary for our Executive Officers - Michele, Kevin, Laura and Jeanne to "update" our SNCP Pastoral Council "Appendix". Both Fr. Mark and Fr. Norbie approved the "Appendix" before it was forwarded to the Archdiocese. Tonight, we are seeking approval by our Council members, to make it "officially" approved, on behalf of our Northside parishioners. It should be noted that the "Appendix" can

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be modified at any upcoming Council meeting. A revised "Appendix" can be sent to the Archdiocese at any time.

A question was raised regarding whether or not any significant changes occurred between the last "Appendix" (2018) and the current rendition (2020)? We added two adhoc committees -1) Communications Committee and 2) The Hispanic Community. Previously, the Hispanic Community was a separate "Subcommittee".

A motion was made by Michele Konrad to approve our SNCP "Appendix" to the Norms. Motion was unanimously approved.

3. Parish Events:

- a. As part of their 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, HNJ will be holding "40 Hours of Adoration." This event will start on February 24<sup>th</sup> and end at the School Mass held at HNJ on February 26<sup>th</sup>. The period of Adoration usually held on Tuesdays at SC, will be cancelled on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Fr. Norbie will open the period of Adoration. A couple hours of confession will be held on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.
- b. An old monstrance at HNJ has been refurbished. It is a replica of the high altar at HNJ. Per firsthand accounts of seeing the finished product, it is "gorgeous!"

**Next Meeting: Monday, February 22, 2021, 6:30pm, Location TBD (probably Zoom)**  
**Committee Reports- Due by the 15th of the Month, Email to: [laura9326@charter.net](mailto:laura9326@charter.net)**

Meeting ended at 8:03 PM.

Closing Prayer: Mary Greenway

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Graney, SNCP Recording Secretary

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