

Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes  
Pastoral Council Meeting held via Zoom  
Minutes 10-26-20  
Approved: 11-23-20

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

**Excused Council Members:** Brad Bulkow, Brett Goebel, and Oscar Valdez

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

**Opening Prayer:** Tom Clarke

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

**Consent Agenda:**

- a. Minutes from September 28, 2020, and October Committee Reports - Motion made by Bob Mair to approve. Seconded by Rebecca Rupnick. Unanimously approved.
  
- b. Committee Reports (Verbal):
  1. Stewardship: Bob Mair  
Latest "in person" meeting was held on October 13, 2020. Meeting provided the opportunity for committee members to introduce themselves and "meet and greet" Fr. Mark. Greatest area of concern: lack of members. Committee presently consists of four SD parishioners and one SC parishioner; zero parishioners from HNJ. Committee would greatly appreciate the assistance of Pastoral Council members in helping to address this identified need. Please refer to "October Committee Reports" for a more detailed report of the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  
  2. Faith Formation: Kevin Sander  
Latest meeting was held via Zoom on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Faith Formation efforts aimed at our children has been very "active". A lot of work by our Faith Formation staff went into preparing "take home packets" of Faith Formation materials. Anna Stankewitz, an ECHO student from Notre Dame, is completing her "work experience" to complete her Master's degree, within our Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes. Her term will end in May 2020. Kym Leibham suggested that our Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes consider submitting another application for a new ECHO student, for the new school year that begins in fall 2020. Based on our experience with Anna, having an ECHO student has really been a "win-win" situation, for our Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes, as well as

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the student! As a need to enhance our Faith Formation efforts with "adults" has been identified, Anna is concentrating her efforts on developing small group bible studies for the Advent season. Please refer to "October Committee Reports" for a more detailed report of the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- c. Financial Reports: Finance Councils (SD and HNJ) recently met. Council members, from these respective parishes should have received a recent financial report. The SC Finance Council will be meeting soon. A finance report to SC Council members will be disseminated shortly after.

Mary Greeneway mentioned that the Pastoral Council Liaison to the HNJ Finance Council remains open. The main duties of this position include: 1) participating in Finance Council meetings held every other month, on the third Monday of the month, and 2) reviewing the Finance Council reports. Mary Petrie mentioned that there is a new HNJ parishioner that has expressed possible interest in joining the Finance Council. But, as this person is "new" to the parish, they should probably be "mentored" first. Both Kym Leibham and Kevin Sander expressed possible interest in this position. After discussion between Kym and Kevin, it was decided that Kevin would be the Pastoral Council Liaison representative to the HNJ Finance Council, at this time.

**Pastor Report:** Fr. Mark Brandl

Fr. Mark expressed concern regarding the increasing incidence of Covid within our Sheboygan community, including our SNCP. "How do we keep people safe?" We have recently been notified that both a staff member and a Food Pantry volunteer have tested positive. Fr. Mark hopes that we won't need to stop activities and/or "shut down" the parishes again. Presently, it is "very concerning" to be inside the Confessional, due to being in a "confined" area. Discussion ensued regarding possible alternatives that may be available at HNJ and SD. Could "other" rooms be utilized? Do they have a "window"? Could confessions be offered "virtually"? The answer to this particular question is "No!", as it is too easy to "hack" the Internet, resulting in private information being leaked. Fr. Mark and Fr. Norbie will continue to discuss this situation, and hopefully come up with a solution. First Reconciliation is slated for December 2020.

Our Men's Bible Study group has recently been reintroduced. The first session was held on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Men have the option of participating "in person" at SC - Dominican Hall, or "virtually". To date, nine men are participating "in person", and eight men "virtually". Due to

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the large space available in SC - Dominican Hall, Fr. Mark feels the environment is "safe" to continue meeting via this format. But, if need be, the Men's Bible Study could all be conducted "virtually".

Fr. Mark has recently started writing a weekly column within our SNCP Bulletin. This coming weekend (November 1<sup>st</sup>), he is addressing "Confirmation". The weekend of November 15<sup>th</sup>, he will be talking about "Stewardship". This topic will also be the focus of his homily for that weekend. Maybe Anna Stankewitz's Adult Faith Formation Bible Study programs could be a future topic? Please let Fr. Mark know of any other topics that he could address via his weekly column. Is there a way to get Fr. Mark's weekly Pastor's column posted on our SNCP Facebook page?

Maybe we could start a "Wish List" project for our SNCP Committees? This could possibly be set up similar to the "Wish Upon A Star" project that was implemented previously at SD. Obviously, some modifications would need to be made, as the "Wish Upon A Star" project involved "paper"; committee members writing "wishes" on pieces of star shaped paper and posting on a bulletin board. Parishioners would take one or more "stars" and donate the financial support requested, (usually cash/check, but may have been a gift card). Plus, coordination at three parishes, especially where a committee encompasses all three parishes, such as "Seton School", may involve more "work" than that of a committee that represents one parish only. Something to ponder . . .

**Associate Pastor Report:** Fr. Norberto Sandoval

Fr. Norbie does not want anyone to be "concerned", but he admits to feeling a little "under the weather" at the 7:30 AM Mass he celebrated this past Sunday. He is feeling better now. He met with members of the SC - Hispanic Environment Committee at HNJ earlier today.

**Committee Liaison Selection:**

Goal is to complete our "Pastoral Council Liaison" roster by the end of October 2020. Openings still exist in the areas of Evangelization, Seton School Board and Deanery Rep from SC. The duties of the liaison are: 1) to attend committee meetings - present Pastoral Council goals and how committees can help the Council achieve their goals, 2) Take needs and concerns of the committee back to the Pastoral Council, and 3) To forward a copy of the committee meeting minutes to the SNCP Pastoral Council Recording Secretary.

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No decision made tonight regarding an Evangelization liaison. At previous meetings, it was mentioned that maybe this topic could be addressed by our "Faith Formation" committee? Kevin Sander serves as our Pastoral Council liaison to the Faith Formation committee.

In regards to the Seton School Board, a couple of suggestions were offered: 1) Maybe have SNCP Trustees rotate meeting attendance at school board meetings? 2) Maybe have a Junta representative at the school board meetings? Or 3) Maybe have the Vice Chair of the Seton School Board report back to our Pastoral Council?

\*Note: Fr. Norbie mentioned that presently there is some "discomfort" felt within some members of our Hispanic community. Some feel "inadequate" in terms of their verbal and/or written communication skills. Consequently, they do not want to serve on committees or the Pastoral Council. In the eyes of some members of our Hispanic community, certain members of the Hispanic community may be viewed as "favorites". Fr. Norbie is working on trying to resolve these issues.

\*Michele Konrad volunteered to "brainstorm" with Fr. Mark on ways to bring the Hispanic community and the Pastoral Council closer together.

Of the three suggestions offered above, in terms of a liaison between the Pastoral Council and the Seton School Board, the most promising solution appears to be, having the Vice Chair of the Seton School Board report back to our Pastoral Council. Presently, we do not know who the Vice Chair of our Seton School Board is.

The duties of the Deanery Rep. include: 1) attending two meetings per year, within our Deanery district, 2) making Council members aware of what transpired at the Deanery meetings; bringing back meeting minutes, and 3) expressing any immediate concerns from the Archdiocese to our Council Chair for action. How do we deal with the open position for a Deanery Rep. from SC? Some ideas offered included: 1) Placing a "blurb" in our SNCP Bulletin, requesting a SC parishioner consider volunteering for this position, 2) Asking Fr. Mark to "appoint" a parishioner from SC to this position (In all fairness, Fr. Mark has only been with our Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes for approximately three months, he doesn't know many parishioners yet), and 3) In the "chat" box, available during our Zoom meeting, Maureen Nickodem's name was mentioned. Who will approach her to consider this request?

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**Old Business:**

Develop a Plan of Action: Our Council Chair, Michele Konrad, compiled a summary of the needs of parishioners as identified by Pastoral Council members. This two page summary was emailed to all Pastoral Council members earlier today. But, another copy has been attached to this correspondence for easy reference. Based on the comments identified within this document, as well as the conversation that ensued this evening via our Zoom meeting, the following three goals were identified for the Pastoral Council to address during the coming year:

1. Human Concerns/Outreach to the Elderly Homebound - How do we keep them informed and let them feel "involved" in parish activities?
  - "Reignite" our phone tree calls. Ask parishioners what are they missing at this time?
  - Send out a Christmas card.
  - Let them know about Relevant Radio. Put a blurb in SNCP Bulletin to let them know how to find this resource.
  - Offer them the opportunity to receive Communion at home (each parish has a number of pyxes available). But, keep in mind, according to the Archdiocesan Matrix, Home Communion can be offered from one family member to another, for example, a daughter to a mother, but not neighbor to neighbor, or one SNCP parishioner to another SNCP parishioner, unless they are within the same family, as mentioned earlier.
  - Many religious items available via our Religious Store at SD. Lori Woelfel is coordinating the effort to let parishioners know that these items are available for purchase on-line. When the Archdiocesan Matrix allows, maybe the purchase of pyxes could be promoted via our website.
  
2. Adult Faith Formation. One avenue to explore is small Bible study groups. Anna Stankewitz is developing an Advent program presently. Another possible avenue to explore could be, how to feel more "connectedness" to the Mass? Other avenues?
  
3. Communications - efforts spearheaded by our newly formed Communications Committee.

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Other Communication Items:

- Laura reminded Pastoral Council liaisons that one of their "action" items is to confirm or update who the Committee Chair of their respective committee is for 2020-21. \*Action requested: ASAP.
- Each Pastoral Council member is asked to send a "recent" photo of himself/herself to Michele, so that this can be posted on our SNCP Website, as a way for our parishioners to become more familiar with our "Parish Leadership". \*Action requested: Send ASAP.
- We need to recruit a parishioner that could take candid photos of our priests and parishioners in "action". These photos need to be depicted not only on social media, but in print, as well. We have a camera, we just need an "operator".
- Pastoral Council presentations to parishioners  
Tentatively slated for the weekend of November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. One or two Pastoral Council reps from each parish will be asked to speak before parishioners at each Mass offered at their respective parish regarding the role of the Pastoral Council. A script will be provided. As this will be the weekend before Thanksgiving, it is hoped that we will be allowed to distribute a "Thanksgiving Prayer". Maybe as an insert within our SNCP Bulletin? Stay tuned.

Volunteer Coordination Overall - tabled.

New Business:

1. Each parish Finance Council needs to complete their respective "Appendix" by December 31<sup>st</sup>. It would be nice to send the Archdiocese a copy of all of our Financial "Appendices", in conjunction with our Pastoral Council "Appendix", in one bundle.
2. Update Pastoral Council "Appendix" to the Norms - looking for a few Council members to volunteer to work on this committee. The "Appendix" is due to the Archdiocese by December 31<sup>st</sup>.
3. Parish Events:  
Can we include a description of why the Thanksgiving Food Boxes are associated with Mary McGuire? Not everyone is associated with the history of this outreach project.

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- New business item to be included on next month's agenda - how to increase Mass attendance "safely"; what to do with anticipated increase in numbers associated with Christmas?

**Next Meeting:** Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 PM. Location: TBD.

**Committee Reports:** Due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Email to Laura at:  
[Laura9326@charter.net](mailto:Laura9326@charter.net). Please contact Laura if you need an extension on this timeline.

**Closing Prayer:** Mary Dalhaimer

Meeting ended at 8:16 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Graney, SNCP Recording Secretary