

Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes  
Pastoral Council Meeting in Dominican Hall  
Minutes 4-26-21 -- Final

**Pastoral Council Members Present:** Fr. Mark Brandl (Pastor), Fr. Norberto Sandoval (Associate Pastor), Jeanne Bitkers (SD), Tom Clarke (HNJ), Mary Dalhaimer (SC), Laura Graney (SD), Mary Greenway (HNJ), Michele Konrad (HNJ), Kym Leibham (HNJ), Bob Mair (SD), Mary Petrie (Staff), Chris Roenitz (SC), Kevin Sander (HNJ), Anne Skowlund (SC), and Oscar Valdez (SC)

**Excused Council Members:** Vern Baus (SC), Brad Bulkow (SD), Tom Dinolfo (Staff), Brett Goebel (SD), Michael Johnson (HNJ), and Rebecca Rupnick (SD)

**Guest:** Anna Stankewitz (Echo Apprentice from Notre Dame)

**Welcome:** Chair Michele Konrad called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

**Opening Prayer:** Bob Mair

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

**Consent Agenda:** Minutes from March 22, 2021, and April 2021 Committee Reports.

Motion made by Bob Mair to approve; seconded by Mary Dalhaimer. Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Reports:** Council members from SC and HNJ should have received (via email) the most recent copy of their respective parish financial reports. SD Council members should be receiving their financial reports soon. **Action:** Council members are reminded to direct any financial questions or concerns to their respective parish trustees or liaisons.

**Pastor Report:** Fr. Mark Brandl

The second week of First Communion celebrations will occur this coming weekend (May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>). We will stop recording the Saturday Mass after May 1<sup>st</sup>. Homilies will continue being recorded. Fr. Mark and Fr. Norbie participated in an Archdiocesan District meeting this past Thursday. Auxiliary Bishop Schuerman was present. We are not the only parishes looking at "loosening up" soon. One other parish priest (within the Archdiocese) announced that they have taken down the ropes within their Church. All Masses within our Northside parishes are becoming very full. Fr. Mark remarked that he has fielded several complaints regarding the "vaccinated" areas within our Churches. The number of complaints has gradually been declining. He feels that this is probably due to better wording on his behalf regarding the reasons that this practice was implemented. The next issue that he needs to

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deal with, is inquiries from parishioners, regarding the need to continue wearing masks, in our Churches, since our Governor dropped this as a State mandate. Stay tuned!

**Associate Pastor Report:** Fr. Norberto (Norbie) Sandoval

Whereas, our Anglo community is almost at 25% capacity, in terms of Mass attendance, (at most Masses), this has not been observed yet, within our Hispanic community. This may be due in part, to the difficulty in getting the whole family vaccinated within Hispanic households. Plan to keep the Hispanic Masses at HNJ; not going back to SC yet.

Fr. Norbie has been working with the Hispanic community, to "transform" Junta. Covid has made it difficult this past year, to keep the Junta functioning, as is. A lot of "healing" needs to take place. Present Committee Chairs within Junta have been asked to either step down, suggest someone else to take their place, or possibly move on to another position. Fr. Norbie hopes to have the changes in place by July 1<sup>st</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Norbie is looking for a Hispanic representative (bilingual, if possible) for each committee (i.e., Finance, Liturgy, Building and Grounds, Environment). Oscar Valdez has agreed to take over as "head" of the Junta. Beatriz Garcia will be moving on to the Pastoral Council. Please refer to the Hispanic Committee report for other proposed changes in committee leaders. The next Junta meeting will be held on Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

From May 5<sup>th</sup> through May 11<sup>th</sup>, a replica of the statue of "Our Lady of St. John of the Lakes (Mexico) will be here for viewing, at HNJ. Many activities are being planned around the opportunity to view this blessed image, including a big celebration on Mother's Day, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Norbie has been able to arrange for a mariachi band to play at the 12:15 PM Mass at HNJ.

Looking at holding "Picnic in the Park" towards the end of June; possibly in Cleveland Park or End Park. Fr. Norbie has been talking with Lulu Torres about the possibility of setting up several food booths with an "Around the World" theme. Stay tuned!

Fr. Norbie would like to stay with our SNCP for another three years, if possible.

**Committee Liaisons/Guests:** Anna Stankewitz (Echo Apprentice from Notre Dame)

Anna Stankewitz, our Echo student from Notre Dame, was our guest speaker tonight. Anna is completing her Masters in Theology Degree, and will be with us until May 21<sup>st</sup>. Upon her graduation, she hopes to obtain employment with a campus ministry program.

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The goal of the Echo program is to form lay leaders within the Catholic Church. This faith formation usually occurs through an apprenticeship established with a parish. During her second year here with our Northside parishes, her main area of involvement has been with Faith Formation and Evangelization. During her time with our Northside parishes, Anna has conducted various faith formation activities with children, as well as adults. She has spearheaded small Bible Study groups, and recently completed a successful "Women's Retreat!"

When asked to give her perspective on what she felt was going well with our Northside parishes, Anna cited the "energy/zeal" that our parishioners have for their Catholic faith. On the other side of the coin, when asked what we could be doing better, Anna felt that we needed to channel that "zeal"; provide direction to our parishioners to move beyond "triage", to "mission".

On behalf of our Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes, Anna was presented with two "thank you" gifts - a rosary and wooden cross. We wish Anna luck with her future endeavors! May God Bless You Anna! Come back and pay us a visit.

**Plan of Action:**

a. Pastoral Council Role: Fr. Mark

Fr. Mark stated that the goal of our Pastoral Council is "To establish a broad **vision** for our parishes". We need to look at how to bring God to everyone in Sheboygan. God is not asking us to change the world, just our small corner of the world (Sheboygan). How do we bring back the passion (love) for the Church (God)? What can we do better? How do we make people feel needed? Give parishioners the opportunity to "tell their story". Maybe look at upgrading the programs that we offer parishioners; such as updating our bulletin—including a ministry corner, surveying parishioners to see what they want. **Action: Have this new vision established by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Then set it into "action".**

b. Faith Formation/Evangelization: Kevin Sander

Kevin now has a list of potential speakers for our "big speaker event". His committee can now move forward.

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c. Communications: Kym Leibham

Please refer to the April 2021 Communications Committee Notes.

d. Human Concerns - Laura Graney

No new information to share. Next meeting for SD Communications Committee is slated for June 22, 2021.

**Old Business:**

a. Parish Events: Fr. Mark

When planning activities associated with the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of HNJ, keep in mind "What has God done for us, not what we have done for God".

b. Pre-Cana Couples/Tri-Parish Meeting - Kevin Sander

Kevin plans to meet with Fr. Mark soon to discuss what topics should be discussed between our married couples (acting as mentors), our Pastor, and couples being wed soon. Maybe it would be good for the engaged couples to witness our mentors and other married parishioners renewing their wedding vows? Maybe this could be done at the beginning of each month, as part of the Saturday/Sunday Mass?

**New Business:**

a. Election of Parishioners to Council and the Discernment Process - Michele Konrad

Michele will be meeting with Don Holmes (SD) on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM, to discuss how to organize/implement the discernment process for this year. Don has organized this process for many years. Michele has expressed willingness to take it over. They are still in need of a meeting location. They would like at least one representative from each parish to be present. Kevin Sander volunteered to be present on behalf of HNJ. Anne Skowlund volunteered to be present on behalf of SC. Maybe Beatriz Garcia would be interested in representing the Hispanic community from SC? Jeanne Bitkers volunteered to be present on behalf of SD, unless Rebecca Rupnick is interested? Or, Brad Bulkow? Brett Goebel?

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b. Deanery Update: Kevin Sander

Kevin recently attended our District Deanery meeting. They promoted discussion/utilization of the Archdiocesan produced pamphlet entitled, "The Gift of Sunday". This pamphlet has been available at each Northside parish for distribution since Easter. Check with your parish office, if you do not see copies on display in the Church that you usually attend.

**Next Meeting: Monday, May 24, 2021, 6:30pm, Location TBD**

**Committee Reports-Due by the 15th of the Month, Email to: [laura9326@charter.net](mailto:laura9326@charter.net).**

Meeting ended at 8:44 PM.

Closing Prayer: Chris Roenitz

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Graney, SNCP Recording Secretary