

Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes

Pastoral Council Minutes

February 26, 2026, 6:30 pm, Dominican Hall, St. Clement

Approved March 4, 2026

Pastoral Council Members and Staff Present: Fr. Nick Baumgardner (Pastor), Dcn. Jim Hall (SNCP), Luanne Bemis (SC), Jeanne Bitkers (SD), Mary Jo Bugembe (HNJ), Tom Clarke (HNJ), Nick Devine (SD), Don Holmes (SD), Tom Jetzer (SC), Donna Karr (HNJ), Bob Mair (SD), Mary Petrie (SNCP Pastoral and Administrative Assistant), Anne Skowlund (SC) and James TenPas (SD).

Excused: Fr. Dennis Beltré (Associate Pastor), Danilo Batres (SC), Daniel Duessing (SD), Anahi Escobar (SC), Mary Greenway (HNJ), Lauren Jacobs (HNJ), Jeanne Kobuszewski (SC), Michele Konrad (HNJ) and Lori Woelfel (SNCP Office Manager, Bookkeeper, Safeguarding).

Welcome: Vice Chair Luanne Bemis called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Mission and Vision Statements: Read aloud by all council members.

Opening Prayer: Tom Clarke

1. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes January 22, 2026

Online approval January 28, 2026

b. Committee Reports

i. **SNCP Prayer and Worship, First Half 2026, January 20, 2026**

ii. **HNJ Prayer and Worship, Lent Planning, January 26, 2026**

iii. **SC Prayer and Worship, Lent Planning, January 26, 2026**

2. Courageous Conversations

SNCP Ushers Mark Matthias (HNJ), Larry Kirchner (SD) and Bill Steffen (HNJ) expressed concern regarding the security of our parishes during Masses and asked to attend the pastoral council meeting to discuss these concerns. A lengthy, meaningful discussion took place. Mark cited extensive data from the Violence Prevention Project Research Center that is dedicated to reducing violence through research that is both accessible and geared toward action. The goal of this research center is to empower the public and drive informed policy decisions.

Our ushers have held numerous discussions regarding this critical issue. Any solution is complicated by the fact that our churches each have unique physical layouts and characteristics.

It was agreed that the security of our parishes is of utmost importance. There are many factors to consider before a strategy can be put into place. An ideal solution would recognize a balance with our need for security and our faith in God. We need to give this vital topic the time it deserves. Therefore, this matter will be added to the pastoral council's next agenda for further discussion. Council welcomes any additional feedback from our three usher groups. Thank you to the ushers who presented important information at this meeting that will be helpful to facilitate future dialogue.

3. Pastor/Associate Pastor Reports

a. Fr. Nick Baumgardner

St. Clement Property

The school and parking lot have officially been sold to Sheboygan County. The biggest impact of this sale is the parish's continued use of the parking lot. A use agreement with the County is in place where we can use the parking lot on weekends and after 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. The proceeds from this sale will be devoted to major repairs to the St. Clement church building that's been damaged by water over the years. Options for cooling the church will also be investigated.

Additionally, SNCP is currently working on a lease negotiation with Catholic Charities who continues to occupy the former rectory after damage to their building.

St. Dominic School Building

As previously announced, the Richardson School, a therapeutic day school, has expressed interest in renting the St. Dominic school building. Fr. Nick and Jeanne Bitkers recently visited one of the other Richardson School properties in Appleton which is on the same campus as St. Bernadette Church. It was a good opportunity to tour the facility and get a better sense of what the school is all about. SNCP is now moving forward with a letter of intent and lease negotiations with this group.

Perpetual Adoration Chapel—Reinl Center

A flyer with detailed information is being prepared for inclusion in our March 8th *Bulletin*. The goal of this chapel is to make it something that is supported by the whole county – not just for SNCP – so we are asking that this flyer be included in other parish bulletins as well. In addition, an informational meeting is scheduled for March 24th at 6:00 p.m. at St. Clement Dominican Hall.

It was noted that many people, especially those from other parishes, do not know where the Reinl Center is located. A suggestion was made to erect an attractive sign in front of the building. This idea will be given

consideration; however, security is also a factor that needs to be taken into account.

Holy Name Rectory Renovations

Renovations to the third floor of the rectory are in process to prepare for a seminarian's stay with our parish this summer. Since the last time any changes took place was likely in the 1960's, these renovations are necessary to update flooring, light fixtures and a bathroom as well as overall painting. The anticipated cost is approximately \$8-9,000.

Lori Woelfel, SNCP Office Manager and Bookkeeper

Fr. Nick announced that Lori has accepted a new position that will allow her to work towards her planned retirement. Her last day with SNCP will be March 31st. Lori has been a valuable member of our staff and community and we are grateful for her hard work and dedication to helping out wherever she was needed. Best wishes to Lori as she moves toward a new season of her life.

b. Fr. Dennis Beltré

No report as Fr. Dennis was unable to attend this meeting due to pastoral responsibilities.

4. Financial Report – Lori Woelfel

In Lori's absence, this report was provided by Mary Petrie and Fr. Nick.

Mass Attendance

Over 1,326 individuals attended our four Masses on Ash Wednesday. This is compared to 1,090 people who attended last year.

Average attendance at weekend Masses is 1,300 which is an increase of approximately 300 individuals compared to the same time last year.

Love One Another Campaign

Each of the parishes received a distribution from the Love One Another Campaign. Holy Name received \$25,737; St. Clement \$4,583.99 and St. Dominic \$16,376.99. The difference in amounts is due to timing as to when individuals said they wanted to make their contributions (i.e., choosing annual vs. quarterly contributions).

Welcome Cards

It's interesting to note that there has been a noticeable increase in donations from people who are not members. Most often they are using the QR codes on the Welcome Cards available in the pews.

Financial Status (Fr. Nick)

January was a particularly good month for Holy Name. St. Dominic and St. Clement ran some deficits of about \$10,000 each in January but the fiscal year so far has St. Dominic running a small surplus and St. Clement a small deficit. Overall, the parishes are doing all right financially.

Seton School is also doing well financially. Part of the reason they have maintained surpluses this year is because they are operating with a skeleton staff and did not incur the usual hiring and salary expenses.

Calvary Cemetery is starting off the year strong as well. They received some substantial donations in January, but it's helpful to keep in mind that their fiscal year runs from January 1st to December 31st. Thus, future expenses are not yet known.

5. Book Discussion: *Why We're Catholic* by Trent Horn, Chapters 12, 13 & 14.

These chapters are a good reminder of things that we all knew at one time but haven't thought of recently—why we have a pope and priests and why we go to Mass. It was noted that receiving the Eucharist is what makes the Catholic Mass stand apart from other religious services that seem to be focused more on entertainment.

6. Old Business

a. SNCP Volunteer Recognition – Further Discussion

Planning continues for this event that will take place on Thursday, April 23rd from 6-8:30 pm at St. Dominic PAC. We are planning a bingo night that will be a relaxed, fun-filled fellowship evening for all. Refreshments will be served along with many fun mystery prizes for our bingo winners.

The invitation will be going out the first week in March via all the usual SNCP communication channels. An RSVP by April 13th will be required.

Thank you to our council members, Stewardship Committee and staff who have signed up to help with this event.

b. 2026 SNCP Lenten Scripture Series – Pastoral Council Volunteer Night, March 3rd.

The Pastoral Council, along with the Stewardship Committee, will host the next Soup Supper evening on Tuesday, March 3rd. Our speaker will be Fr. Nick whose presentation will be "We Build What We Believe: The Art and Architecture of Catholic Churches." A sign-up sheet was circulated to remind council members of their contributions for the evening.

7. New Business

a. 2026 SNCP Time and Talent Drive

The launch for this year's drive is the weekend of April 18th-19th. Updated Time and Talent Booklets with sign-up sheets will be available. This year's focus will be on the Altar Server ministry. Following up on last year's successful campaign for Calvary Cemetery volunteers, the plan is to have some of the young men and women servers provide testimony at the Masses that weekend.

b. Upcoming Parish Events

As stated previously, a Perpetual Adoration Chapel information meeting will take place on March 24th at 6 pm at St. Clement Dominican Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Closing Prayer: Luanne Bemis

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Bugembe
SNCP Pastoral Council Secretary
March 1, 2026