

Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes
Pastoral Council Minutes
January 22, 2026, 6:30 p.m., Dominican Hall, St. Clement
Approved January 28, 2026

Pastoral Council Members and Staff Present: Fr. Nick Baumgardner (Pastor), Fr. Dennis Beltré (Associate Pastor), Luanne Bemis (SC), Jeanne Bitkers (SD), Mary Jo Bugembe (HNJ), Tom Clarke (HNJ), Dan Duessing (SD), Anahi Escobar (SC), Mary Greeneway (HNJ), Don Holmes (SD), Tom Jetzer (SC), Donna Karr (HNJ), Jeanne Kobuszewski (SC), Michele Konrad (HNJ), Bob Mair (SD), Mary Petrie (SNCP Pastoral and Administrative Assistant), James TenPas (SD) and Lori Woelfel (SNCP Office Manager, Bookkeeper, Safeguarding).

Excused: Dcn. Jim Hall (SNCP), Danilo Batres (SC), Nick Devine (SD), Lauren Jacobs (HNJ) and Anne Skowlund (SC).

Welcome: Chair Dan Duessing called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

Opening Prayer: Jim TenPas

1. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes December 11, 2025
Online approval December 17, 2025

b. Committee Reports

i. SD Prayer & Worship, December 9, 2025

2. Pastor and Associate Pastor Reports

Fr. Nick Baumgardner, Pastor

St. Clement Property

The sale of the St. Clement school building and parking lot to the County of Sheboygan will be finalized by mid-February. Once all documents are signed, more information, including the sale price, will be shared with our parishioners. It was also noted that Catholic Charities is currently occupying the former St. Clement rectory building due to damage to their building. Tentative plans are to establish a long-term lease agreement which could provide the benefit of an additional revenue stream for the parish.

Richardson School

The Richardson School, a therapeutic day school, has expressed interest in renting the St. Dominic school building, as they are looking to establish a presence in the Sheboygan area. Currently they have locations in both the Green Bay and Milwaukee dioceses. Many questions have arisen. A special meeting to address concerns will be held on Sunday, February 1 immediately following the 10:30 Mass at St. Dominic. Additionally, a future *Bulletin* article will provide detailed FAQ information. This opportunity could present a potential new revenue source for the parish.

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Many counties in the Milwaukee Archdiocese have perpetual adoration chapels where the Eucharist is exposed in a monstrance, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It is hoped that Sheboygan County will be able to establish their own adoration chapel sometime in the near future. A possible location could be the former convent chapel in our parish's Reintl Center. This would be for the benefit of all of Sheboygan County – not just our City of Sheboygan parishes. A detailed explanation of the vision for this project will be included in our March 8 *Bulletin*. It will be distributed to all other area parishes as well. A video will also be created. These initial announcements will be followed by a special interest meeting on March 24 that will hopefully give us an idea of the level of interest and degree of commitment from other parishes for this important initiative. Many details need to be worked out and support from all parishes in the county is vital.

Fr. Dennis Beltré, Associate Pastor

Fr. Dennis is working with Donna Karr to prepare a display of his photos from a recent visit with La Sagrada Familia Parish St. Vincent de Paul Society in the Dominican Republic. This was the organization that Fr. Dennis chose for his personal charity during the “One Community; Two Charities; Three Churches” outreach campaign last March. The display is intended to give parishioners an opportunity to see the impact of their generosity on this worthy cause.

3. Financial Report—Lori Woelfel

Monthly Financial Summary Reports

December 2025 financial data was distributed to council members and will appear in an upcoming *Bulletin*. All three parishes had positive results. Lori shared some “fun” facts regarding Pushpay—SNCP’s online giving vehicle. The average weekly contribution from all three parishes is \$8,200. Monthly, this total is just under \$36,000. It’s important to continue to encourage parishioners, especially our

newest members, to use Pushpay for their offerings because knowing how much is expected helps the budgeting process.

Seton School Budget

The surplus for Seton School was questioned. However, it was also noted the previous month was a deficit. The revenue/expense stream for the school fluctuates widely due to the timing of the receipt of government payments. Expenses are also irregular with heavier spending during the school year. Therefore, an overall explanation of the Seton budget is complicated, and the report of any given month can be misleading. Transparency is important; a future *Bulletin* article is planned to further explain Seton's unique budgeting cycle. The school also has developed a flyer that summarizes their financial goals.

It was recommended that outreach efforts emphasize that donations to Seton are intended for Catholic school tuition assistance. It is hoped that individuals would then feel more vested and more likely to give to a specific cause.

Envelopes

There are still a number of parishioners who prefer envelopes for their weekly contribution. There are also quite a few who receive envelopes but don't use them. Staff will review records in an effort to reduce mailing expenses and printing costs.

Individual Financial Statements

In a further effort to reduce mailing costs, plans are being made for individual financial statements to be made available for parishioners to pick-up after Mass as opposed to mailing them. Watch for details.

Mass Attendance

Mass attendance figures for the month of December were also reported. December 2025 had 1,300 in attendance vs. 1,250 in December 2024.

4. Book Discussion: *Why We're Catholic* by Trent Horn, Part 2, Chapters 9 and 10 and Part 3, Chapter 11

Council members agreed the chapters on the Bible provided enlightening explanations. The author's style of sharing answers to questions from people he encountered made the topics easily understandable.

Other shared thoughts:

- The Catholic Church gave us the Bible.
- It's powerful to realize that the Catholic Church started in the year 33.
- Early Christians only had the Old Testament that told them how to live their lives.
- Scripture is important and vital; essential to our lives.

- We come to the Bible with the advantage of history.
- If these events were happening now, it would be very difficult to figure out what is going on—the meaning behind it all.

Readings for next month are Chapters 12, 13 and 14.

5. Pastoral Council Goal: Building Community Among Our Three Parishes

A handout outlining six goals (see attached) that were identified at the December pastoral council meeting was distributed. Discussion centered around our parish's "Becoming Catholic" program. Kym Leibham, SNCP Director of Adult Faith Formation and the coordinator for the OCIA program, will be invited to the February pastoral council meeting as a guest speaker. Council members would like to hear about how best to connect with our "new" Catholics. What are some of the statistics? How many in this group? How far should we go back?

Also, Chair Dan Duessing shared his success with his personal goal to reach out to someone he did not know at Mass. He urged council members to do the same.

A suggestion was made to focus on our yearly Graduation Mass by making it an event – not just the Mass. Offering a breakfast beforehand could be an option. This would provide an opportunity to engage the younger generation. It would be good to start talking with the high school students in their sophomore/junior years to get their feedback of what they would like to see happen.

Another idea was to engage the Mission Trip students after their trip – hear their stories – celebrate them at a Mass. This year's trip is scheduled for July 12-17. Perhaps use this opportunity to bring back the outdoor Mass that took place in previous years.

6. Old Business

a. Status Report – Pastoral Council Photos and Promotional Display

Framed poster boards with pastoral council member photos are completed and ready for displaying in all three churches. The posters are also available to display digitally. Thank you to Michele Konrad for her professional expertise in completing this project and thanks to all council members for their cooperation. Michele indicated she is willing to provide a digital copy of individual photos to council members if so desired.

b. SNCP Volunteer Recognition

As previously discussed, a special volunteer recognition event is in the planning stages. It will be a Bingo Night, taking place on Thursday evening, April 23 at St. Dominic PAC. Pastoral council members, Stewardship committee members and SNCP staff will join forces to provide a memorable and fun evening for our volunteers. A planning committee has been meeting to work out the specifics. Watch for an invitation with all the details to be distributed soon to all SNCP ministry leads, Seton volunteer leaders and our Hispanic community.

7. New Business

a. 2026 SNCP Adult Faith Formation and Lenten Scripture Series

Four Tuesday evenings: February 24, March 3, 10 and 17. At St. Clement Dominican Hall, beginning with Mass at 5:15.

Council members chose the March 3 date to volunteer for bringing soup and helping with serving, clean-up and other tasks. The SNCP Stewardship Committee will also be asked to assist.

b. Upcoming Parish Events

- Catholic Schools Week Pancake Breakfast Kick-off. Sunday, January 25, 8am to 1pm at St. Dominic PAC.
- St. Dominic Usher's Brat Fry, Sunday, February 15, 11am to 3pm at St. Dominic PAC
- Seton School Fundraisers: Brat Fry at Festival Foods, Saturday, February 17, A Touch of Ireland (Casino Games), February 21, St. Dominic PAC; Seton Fish Fry, March 13, Knights of Columbus Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Mary Petrie

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Bugembe
SNCP Pastoral Council Secretary
January 25, 2026

Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 26, 2026, St. Clement Dominican Hall. Opening prayer: Tom Clarke; Closing prayer: Anahai Escobar.

Committee Reports – Due by the 15th of the month. Email to Mary Jo Bugembe, Council Secretary at mjbugembe@gmail.com

Attachments: December 2025 Financial Summary

Building Community Handout