

Approved Pastoral Council Minutes for April 3, 2025 Meeting, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

Vision: To be a growing community that inspires all to follow Jesus with a spirit of inclusion, compassion and service.

Mission: We encourage all to deepen their relationship with Jesus through scripture, prayer, stewardship, and ministry to others.

Tag Line: Follow Jesus Serve Others

Meeting Notes

Attending: Father Joy Thachil (Pastor), Michael Flaherty, Dan Ryan (Trustees), Sue Switalski (Pastoral Associate), Rita McGann (Finance), John Plant, (Parish Council Chair), Jason Metz, Sharon Wrotecki, Rachel Henderson, Anne Dettlaff, Jerry Huber, Paula Lucey, Dennis Sobush, Jim Schutte; Dan McGinnity representing ReConnect (Guest)

Excused: Mickey Holtz

Absent: Chase Stublely, Dave Chudy

John opened the meeting, followed by Bible readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

The Vision and Mission statements were read, as well as the tag line.

The minutes from the meeting on March 6 were approved.

Reports

Father Joy:

- Thanked everyone for helping to celebrate Archbishop Grob's visit at Seton.
- The Lenten Penance Service on April 2 was attended by approximately 60 people.
- Holy week celebration begins soon with Palm Sunday; new candles were ordered.
- Mike Johnson will take care of the fire at the Easter Vigil.
- There is an Adoration Service on Wednesday, April 9, at 6:30 pm.
- Archdiocese 12 Hours of Reconciliation; April 9, 8 am-8 pm at multiple parishes

Rita McCann:

- Presented the year-to-date financial report (July 1, 2024-February 28, 2025); comparable to last year, down slightly by 3%.
- Love One Another funds will be used to establish a dedicated room within Seton Hall to be used for Montessori instruction in developing the faith of young children.

Sue Switalski:

- On Monday, April 7, Sue will be presenting *The Sacredness of Holy Week* in Seton Hall from 6-7 pm.

- The three-night mission presentation by Dan Scholz was well attended, with the greatest number of attendees on the first night.
- Celebrating Our Community Partnerships Weekend was held after Masses on March 22 and 23; all ministries who received donations from Seton in the last three years were invited. The weekend was very well received by parishioners and participating ministries; perhaps will hold the Partnership Weekend next year, during Lent.
Discussion followed: Jayne Finn asked Dennis to investigate Seton volunteer possibilities with Habitat for Humanity, both Milwaukee and Waukesha divisions. In doing so, it was learned that Seton had been the sole sponsor of 4-5 homes built in 1998, 2002, 2005-2008, for approximately \$300,000. He will pursue information for available volunteer options and report to the Pastoral Council.

Old Business

- Discernment: an ad hoc committee was formed and met after the meeting, with the goal of showcasing, who we are as a committee, to the parish.
- Glucose gel packets can be found in the CPR/AED case in the Narthax for rapid response purposes. Liquids will also be available in the Reflection Room and choir storage area to be used if Mass attendees present medical emergencies.
- Recurring problem with disabled people entering safely into church; suggestions included getting the aid of young people of the parish, Seton purchasing large golf umbrellas that ushers can use during rain, and ideas that the Seton Seniors may have to alleviate this concern.

New Business

Dan McGinnity: Representing ReConnect

- Shared a video, inspired by Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, to initiate this program that reaches out to those who are no longer attending church, primarily seniors, including those in senior living facilities. We could begin by replicating what Mother of Perpetual Help is doing, with the additional experience that the Seton Bereavement Ministry has and build on that foundation. Volunteers would be trained as ministers of care to make home visits.
- The Ministry Support Team, comprised of all commission heads, would like a representative from the Pastoral Council to become a member of the team.
- Jim expressed the need for additional technology help during all Masses on the weekend; it was suggested to check the Stewardship Volunteer sheets.
- Dennis met with Janis Fitschen-Sherman of Caring for God's Creation Ministry. Seton will continue to support recycling, using recycled bottles and bags. However, the *No Mow May* initiative, tried in a small area of the church lawn last year, did not work well and required additional church monies for outside help to return the area to its original appearance.
- John reported on the Spring Deanery meeting: All attendees were impressed with the new Archbishop, finding him to be kind and approachable. Also shared is the problem experienced by all parishes, encouraging a return to in-person worship. Perhaps Seton could encourage new confirmands to continue attending Mass, or, even as a group, planning some social activity together. Providing ongoing contact and/or gift packages to graduates from high school going to college, joining the workforce, enlisting in the military, etc. received strong support but regrettably, was overlooked this year. Speak to Skylar to coordinate these activities. Also suggested was having a Name Tag Sunday, perhaps on Pentecost Sunday or during Funfest.

Council members joined in Prayers for Others; Father Joy led members in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm; the next meeting is on Thursday, May 1, 2025.