

Sheboygan North Catholic Parishes

Pastoral Council Minutes

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

Approved April 1, 2026

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

Excused: Danilo Batres (SC), Nick Devine (SD) and Michele Konrad (HNJ)

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: Lori Woelfel

1. Consent Agenda

a. Minutes February 26, 2026

Online approval March 9, 2026

b. Committee Reports

i. SNCP Stewardship, February 17, 2026

ii. SD Prayer and Worship, March 9, 2026

2. Guest: Kym Leibham, SNCP Director of Adult Faith Formation

One of the pastoral council's goals is building community within our three parishes. As part of this goal, the council wished to learn more about SNCP's "Becoming Catholic" program to learn how to best connect with our "new" Catholics.

Officially called the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), this program is coordinated by Kym who explained that OCIA is more than a series of classes; rather it is a sacred journey that is intentional where individuals encounter Jesus and grow in their relationship with Him. Four goals for OCIA participants were identified: (1) Encounter Jesus in sacred scripture; (2) Grow in a life of prayer and the sacraments; (3) Understand the church teachings; and (4) Learn how to live one's faith every single day. Catechumens and candidates begin their journey by focusing on two areas: Foundations of Faith and Understanding Scripture. Both areas include in-person, group activities.

There is a wide range of opportunities for volunteers to accompany those on their journey to seek Jesus and a life within His Church. These include being a group catechist; volunteering for one-on-one accompaniment; helping participants to

understand scripture; serving as a sponsor or sponsor coordinator and acting as a hospitality coordinator. For details, please refer to the attachment to these minutes: *Forming Missionary Disciples Through Accompaniment*.

Currently there are both catechumens and candidates coming into the Church at the Easter Vigil – four catechumens (those who will be baptized) and four candidates (those who were baptized in a Christian faith). Additionally, there are 11 baptized Catholics who will start adult confirmation soon. Finally, six others were brought into the church earlier this year who only needed abridged information.

The pastoral council thanks Kym for an informative and inspiring presentation.

3. **Pastor/Associate Pastor Reports**

a. **Fr. Nick Baumgardner**

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Approximately 90 individuals attended an informational meeting on Tuesday, March 25th. The presentation focused primarily on practical details. The location is the former chapel space in the Reinl Center which is undergoing some renovations (mostly to the interior—not structural—such as removing wallpaper and painting, refinishing pews, etc.). Volunteers are needed to complete these tasks prior to the anticipated opening on Corpus Christi weekend in June. Security measures are currently being finalized.

Tuesday's presentation also included an introduction to *Adoration Pro*, an online tool that facilitates sign-up where individuals commit to a certain hour each week. Initially there will be limited hours with the goal being a perpetual adoration chapel in the near future.

St. Clement Rectory Building

SNCP is in the process of finalizing a lease agreement with Catholic Charities for use of the rectory building for office space.

Richardson School

A lease agreement with Richardson School is also in process. It is hoped this will be finalized by the end of April in order for Richardson School to be operational by the fall 2026 school semester. The school is planning some minor renovations.

Seton School

- Fish Fry Fundraiser. Thank you to all who supported the school fish fry held on March 13 at the KC Hall. It was a huge success. Plans are underway to reevaluate the logistics of future events as it was noted that the tremendous response caused some delay in service.
- Strategic Planning
The school is in the process of developing a strategic plan. A survey has been sent to parishioner parents who do not send their children to the school to learn their reasons for this decision. A survey was also sent to parents of current students, asking them to identify the positive features of the school as well as ideas for future improvements.
- Current Upgrades
Interior painting; repaving parking lot; installing a new electronic sign; upgrades to safety and security. It was noted that the exterior gardens and landscape are also in need of regular attention.
- Home and School Association
After a number of years of inactivity, the association is up and running again with strong participation.

b. Fr. Dennis Beltré

No report at this time.

4. Financial Report – Lori Woelfel

Financial Data

A financial report for the month of February 2026 was distributed (Attachment to these minutes). As a basis for comparison, the report included data for the previous year. Our parishes are much improved over last year. Budgets for St. Dominic and St. Clement are currently being worked on and the outlook is promising.

Mass Attendance

Last year attendance at Easter Sunday Mass was 2,088. Given attendance figures so far this year, it is anticipated that our parish will surpass this number in 2026.

Fr. Nick presented Lori with a card and gift from the Pastoral Council with thanks for her many years of dedicated service and well wishes for the future.

Lori responded with gratitude for all she has learned through her work at SNCP and the opportunity to meet and interact with everyone – parishioners, volunteers and staff. She hoped the same warm welcome would be extended to her successor.

5. Book Discussion: *Why We're Catholic* by Trent Horn, Chapters 15, 16 and 17.

Shared Thoughts

- One council member found the chapter on *Why We Baptize Babies* especially relevant as he just served as a sponsor for his grandson.
- Original sin is a consequence not a punishment.
- Question: who can baptize? Typically, baptism is performed by an ordained minister; however, anyone can do so in the case of an emergency. Three conditions must be met: Use of water, following the Trinitarian formula and proper intention.
- Time frame for baptizing. Previously, babies were baptized soon after birth; however modern-day practices have changed as there are practical reasons for waiting. One of these is that families are spread out, and more time is required for all to gather. There is less sense of urgency.
- SNCP baptisms: In the last year, approximately 30-35 baptisms in all three churches. However, this number fluctuates from year to year.
- Another council member shared the idea of having a designated person (team) to “walk with” a newly baptized child’s family to encourage and support them in their promise to bring up the child in the Catholic faith. This support would take place throughout the child’s formative years – not just before and after baptism.
- On another topic, one council member noted the chapter on *Why We Believe in Spite of Scandal*. It is likely that some individuals use the clergy abuse scandal as an excuse for not participating in and supporting their parish. It was agreed that there is no easy answer when questioned about the church’s scandal – especially when the question is raised by people of other faiths. It’s important to remember that this problem is not exclusive to the Catholic Church.

Readings for next month are Chapters 18, 19 and 20.

6. Old Business

a. Parish Security – Further Discussion

Discussion deferred to the May Pastoral Council meeting. Head ushers at all three churches have been contacted to request feedback from their teams. It is important to find an agreeable solution somewhere between the one extreme of doing nothing to the other extreme of locking all doors immediately after Mass begins.

b. 2026 Lenten Soup Supper Series

Kudos to Donna Karr who coordinated this year’s very successful event.

7. New Business

a. Upcoming Parish Events

i. Time and Talent Drive – April 18-19

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.

ii. SNCP Volunteer Recognition Event – April 23

Thank you to everyone who provided snacks and prizes. These can also be dropped off at the Holy Name office. Communication of the event will increase after Easter weekend. A suggestion was made to have a sign-up sheet available in the back of churches. Also, an email to all ministry leaders will be sent.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Lauren Jacobs

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Bugembe
SNCP Pastoral Council Secretary
March 27, 2026