

December 2014 PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
(12/3/2014, 6:30-7:30 PM, Hospitality House)

<u>Present:</u>	Fr. Edward Kacerguis (Pastor), James Brennan, Katherine Clemente, Jean Francois, Frederick Gallo, Fran Hyde, Geena Simila, Robert Thayer, William Webster
<u>Excused</u>	Dn. Joseph Romand, Veronica Ahiati, Kathleen Flynn, Georges Jaar, Marianne Monastero, Felipe Ortiz

Fr. Kacerguis opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes and Chair report (J. Brennan):

- Approval of November 2014 minutes postponed until January meeting.
- Mr. Brennan attended the meeting of the Rensselaer Newman Foundation Board on Friday, November 7, and gave a summary of the activities and projects of the Council.

Pastor's Report (Fr. Kacerguis):

- Bishop Scharfenberger celebrated Mass after the Newman Foundation Board meeting and spoke at the Committee of 100 dinner. On December 15, the bishop will celebrate Mass at 5:15 at the C+CC and attend a hockey game after.
- About 30 people attended the Thanksgiving Eve Mass and dinner despite the snow. The extra food was donated to Joseph's House.
- Monday is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. Masses will be celebrated at 12:10 and 6 PM.
- The Christmas schedule is in place.
- Finances are generally on target.
- The blue spruce in front of Slavin House was uprooted and lost to the Thanksgiving snowstorm. The tree next to it is dying; they will both need to come down. The tree in front of Hospitality House will also be taken down for safety. There are plans to replace them this summer.
- There is new signage in the C+CC; it was recycled from the Student Union.

Newman Fellowship Report (G. Simila):

- Ms. Flynn attended the Newman Foundation Board meeting and submitted a report on the Fellowship's activities.
- November meeting topics included Latin prayer, miracles, and the laws in Leviticus.
- Members of the Fellowship will participate in the St. Jude's Give Thanks Walk at Crossgates Mall on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.
- The Fellowship made baskets for Joseph's House for Thanksgiving; snacks for children have been requested.
- There is an officer meeting tonight. Tomorrow's meeting will be a Jeopardy game; next week's meeting will be a games night.
- The place where the Fellowship usually goes Christmas caroling is closed; they are looking for another place.
- The Fellowship is planning on donating gift cards or personal care products for Christmas.
- The Spring Retreat has been booked for February 27-March 1 at the same location as last year.

Knights of Columbus Report

- No report.

Vice-Chair Report:

- The Vice Chair position is currently vacant and the Council is seeking someone to fill that role.

Secretary Report (R.Thayer):

- No report.

Old Business:

- Christmas Dinner (J. Francois): The Soup Kitchen Christmas Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 18; all donations should be in by December 15. Christ Sun of Justice will provide baskets for younger and older children and personal care products for adults. Personal care products will be picked up at the chapel. There were also a number

of options for participating in the Unity House Adopt-a-Family program. It was decided to stick with gift cards because they are popular with parishioners. Gift cards can be given to Jean, left in the sacristy, or put in the collection basket; donations by check will also be accepted.

- St. James School Fundraiser (W. Webster): Work is progressing. The Newman Fellowship and Knights of Columbus have volunteered to help.
- Coffee Hour (J. Brennan): Mr. Brennan will reach out by email.

New Business:

- The January meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2015.

The meeting concluded with prayer by Mr. Gallo.

Submitted By: Robert Thayer