

University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice  
Pastoral Council Meeting  
Wednesday, 19 January 2005

Present: Rosanne Rose, Andrew Hill, Bill Webster, Fr. Ed Kacerguis, Marie Venaglia, Mark Meehan,, Matt Kosara, Heather Scoffone

Absent: Rendell Torres, Leah Smith, Sue Gutmann, Robin Chin, Matthew Cusack

Faith Formation and prayer:

The meeting was opened with evening prayer, led by Mark Meehan.

Marie reviewed the third chapter of *What Makes Us Catholic* by Thomas H. Groome. The focus was on ways to encourage a sacramental perspective on life.

Welcome to a new Council member:

Rosanne introduced Heather Scoffone, who joins the Council as the newly elected President of the Newman Catholic Fellowship.

Minutes:

The minutes of the December meeting were reviewed and approved.

Pastor's Report:

- Parish observations of Advent and Christmas went very well.
- Easter is celebrated very early this year. Lent begins the second week of February.
- C+CC program flyers, detailing the spring arts programs and the Lenten Wednesday Series, will arrive soon and will be distributed throughout the campus.
- The Parish has responded generously to the tsunami relief appeal. Over \$2700 has been sent to Catholic Charities and donations are still being received.
- Half the fiscal year has passed, and expenditures are consistent with the amounts budgeted.
- The second pulpit exchange among the cluster parishes took place last Sunday, 16 January. Comments are again favorable. The exchange will take place again in August or September.
- The reorganization of the churches in Watervliet and Green Island is a significant precedent. Six existing parishes will be replaced by one new parish, with three worship sites and two priests. Other older urban areas, e.g. Schenectady and Amsterdam may be considered for similar reorganization over the next three or four years.

- The Lenten Wednesday Series this year will focus on *Christianity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Outstanding speakers are scheduled; it should be a superb experience.

#### Chaplain's Report:

- Marie reports that she is now enrolled in the year long program for certification as a Catechetical Leader in the Albany Diocese
- A "Safe Environment" program is being developed for the children and their families. Fran Hyde will assist with the program for elementary grades. A related craft project will be part of the effort.
- An Afternoon of Reflection will be offered to all who work on the Liturgy on Saturday, 29 January.

#### Chair's Report:

- Met with Matt Kosara and the Hospitality Committee.
- Met with Katrin St. John (Social Concerns Committee Chair). The Committee is trying to focus locally, e.g. children collecting school supplies for needy kids in Troy.
- Has asked Marie to restart the Faith Formation Committee.
- Looking ahead to the Spring Enrichment Program, how can we encourage parishioners to participate in this great opportunity?

#### Committee and Organization Reports:

##### *Liturgy Committee (Rosanne):*

- Committee met on 9 December.
- Council brainstorming ideas relating to liturgy were discussed.

##### *Social Concerns Committee (Rosanne):*

- The parish provided 26 Christmas baskets to families in Troy.
- Leaders have been recruited for all the Social Concerns activities.
- A benefit concert is being considered as a source of funding for Social Concerns activities.

##### *Hospitality (Mark Meehan):*

- The Hospitality Committee met on 13 January, and will next meet on 3 February.
- The Greeting Ministry continues to be a major focus.
- The Committee is studying the spring schedule to see what events should include hospitality services.

##### *RCIA (Rosanne):*

- Meetings will be on Mondays at 8:30 p.m.
- A retreat is being planned for Saturday, 19 March, which is the day before Palm Sunday.

*Faith Formation (Marie):*

See “Chaplain’s Report”. No additional comments at this time.

*Newman Catholic Fellowship (Heather):*

- A calendar of events planned for the spring semester was distributed. A copy is provided at the end of the minutes.

*Knights of Columbus (Matt Kosara)*

- The sale of “Enjoy the City” coupon books went well.
- The Knights and Newman Fellowship are working with other campus service groups on relief for tsunami victims. Looking to the future, they hope to be able to recognize and respond to disasters which impact RPI students as well the general public.
- The Knights will receive their Council Charter in March. Appropriate recognition of this important event is being planned.

Other Business:

Unified Event Calendar (Fr. Ed.)

A unified event calendar including C+CC events; parish, Newman Fellowship, Knights of Columbus and other organizational functions is being considered. To meet printing deadlines, all information for the fall semester must be submitted before 1 June.

Parish Survey (all)

Andrew will lead the effort to develop a parish survey. The Council offered suggestions for areas to be explored:

Religious education schedule - best days and times

Faith Formation program for adults

Mass schedule - best time for daily Mass, suggestions for Sunday IF any change is needed

Parish directory

New programs in general

The tentative schedule is to review the survey at the February meeting, and to conduct the survey in March, possibly in conjunction with the coffee hour.

Lenten Wednesday Program Support

Lenten Wednesday Greeters:

Since we expect many visitors for the Lenten Wednesday series, it is important to have greeters both before and after Mass to welcome everyone and help them enjoy the experience. Fran Hyde will coordinate.

Lenten Wednesday Workers:

This year, parish groups: Pastoral Council, Social Concerns Committee, Newman Catholic Fellowship, etc. will be asked to select a week and assist by setting up, serving

and cleaning afterwards. The Knights of Columbus will coordinate.

### Name Tag Sunday

As part of the continuing effort to get parishioners better acquainted, there will be another “Name Tag Sunday” in conjunction with the coffee hour and parish survey in March.

The meeting concluded with Evening Prayer.

## Newman Catholic Fellowship

Tentative Schedule for the semester: (Dinners on Sundays after 5pm Mass are assumed)

### **January**

Thursday 20

8 pm — Clean the kitchen

Short Business Meeting

Thursday 27

3:00 pm — interfaith prayer service at C±CC,

8 pm — Welcome back meeting

Saturday 29

1-3 pm — Eucharistic ministering/Lectoring Retreat

3-6 pm — retreat planning meeting at the Hospitality House

### **February**

Thursday 3

8 pm — Discussion meeting on gay marriage

Business meeting

Wednesday 16

8-10 pm — labyrinth after the first Lenten Wednesday

Friday 18-Sunday 20

Retreat at the Priory

Saturday 26

Food bank

Monday 28

7-10 pm— labyrinth

### **March**

Friday 4-Saturday 5

Overnight at the Hospitality House to do bread baking

Saturday 5-Sunday 6

Selling bread after all masses

Monday 7

7-10 pm — labyrinth

Thursday 10

8 pm — meeting to make Easter baskets for Joseph House

Friday 11

Deliver Easter baskets

Monday 21

7-10 pm — labyrinth

Thursday 31

8 pm - meeting: TBD

Business meeting

## **April**

Thursday 7

8 pm — meeting TBD

Thursday 14

8 pm — movie meeting: Fr Ed has one he “highly recommends!”

Business meeting

Thursday 21

8 pm - meeting with SUNY Newman group: Labyrinth in the lounge?

Snacks/Ice Cream afterward

Saturday 23

Cook dinner or lunch at Joseph House

Thursday 28

Parish appreciation dinner/mass is earlier

8 pm - meeting: Stacie will discuss differences in Christian services

Business meeting

## **May**

Thursday 5

8pm — meeting: games

### **Other thoughts:**

Having a wedding shower for David and Leah

Have a graduation party at our last dinner

Sponsor a coffee hour this semester?

Go to other group’s events, such as the Hillel Seder meal

Keep St James School in South Africa in mind for any possible money in our budget left

at the end of the semester

Do something to help with RPI Relief/Tsunami efforts through student organizations on

campus or nearby

### **Service projects**

- Labyrinth
  - o Posters put up at the beginning and right after spring break
- Joseph house
  - o Patrick will call and schedule a time to cook
  - o Dinner on the 23rd of April?
- Food Bank
  - o February 26th in the morning?
- MS Walk?
  - o Early May

