

University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice
Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday, 7 September 2005

Present: Fr. Ed Kacerguis, Marie Venaglia, Rosanne Rose, Christopher Rainey,
Bill Webster, Ann Brinnitzer, Heather Scoffone, Brandon Graver,
Lori Fowler

Absent: Sue Gutmann, John Goslin, Mark Meehan, Matthew Cusack

Guest: Mike Diacovo

Faith Formation and prayer:

Rosanne opened the meeting by leading the Council in Evening Prayer.

Minutes:

The minutes of the June 1, 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Pastor's Report:

- The response to the hurricane relief appeal has been outstanding. Over \$2000 was collected for Catholic Charities the first week, with no prior notice to the community.
- Jim Fry will be our new music director. He has had other obligations to fulfill, but will be with us full time very soon.
- The picnic was a great success.
- Fr. Ed distributed copies of five flyers that will be sent to the students at the appropriate times: the fall C+CC performing arts schedule, information on the C+CC, Family Weekend, Halloween at the C+CC, and Christmas at the C+CC.
- We will repeat the very successful Thanksgiving eve celebration. Mass is tentatively scheduled for 6:15, followed by a simple meal of soup, salad, bread and dessert. Participants will be asked to bring canned food for the needy.
- Fathers Jim Donlon and George Brennan will be assisting with the Mass schedule.
- Some work is being done at 4 Sherry Rd. (Hospitality House) to repair a leak in the roof, and resulting damage to the kitchen ceiling and floor.
- Major increases in energy costs are being predicted for this winter. To keep the utility budget within bounds, we all need to be careful. Please turn off lights

when not needed, and avoid wasting energy.

- RPI will be hosting 70 - 75 students displaced from Xavier and Tulane by the recent hurricane. As the recovery progresses, we may be able to provide some help to the Newman organizations at those schools.

Chaplain's Report:

- It is time to think about welcoming new students. There was a two week orientation program in July, and Medalist Day will be held on Saturday. Be sure to encourage new students to take part in our ministries here at our parish.

Chair's Report:

- A group is needed to complete analysis of the parish survey. We need to present the results to the Foundation and the community.
- At Thanksgiving, we will be looking for students to volunteer to work at the Equinox dinner, followed by a simple dinner (pizza?) at the Rose's

Committee and Organization Reports:

Faith Formation Committee (Marie)

The GIFT process is in place. The first session will be held on Sunday, October 2 from 11:30 a.m.- 1:45 p.m. in the C+CC. We have a team meeting next week to work on the details for that gathering. Parishioner response has been quite positive.

Preparation for first sacraments: Eucharist, Penance, and Confirmation will begin soon. This year we will be celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation, at the Cathedral, in the spring.

Liturgy (Rosanne)

The committee is continuing to fine tune the Lenten program, especially the observation of Holy Week.

Social Action (Marie)

Committee has been collecting school supplies and drink mixes for Joseph House this summer.

Jim Fry, who is also Director of Joseph House, has provided a list of needs. We will

focus on a particular need each month. This list, and more general information on our social action projects, were distributed at the picnic.

The committee will meet on Tuesday, October 4 at 6pm.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights will take responsibility for set-up and clean-up at the parish picnic.

Newman Catholic Fellowship (Heather)

There were two barbecues last weekend which provided opportunities to meet many new students. More than 200 students attended the event on Monday, jointly hosted by the Rensselaer Christian Association, Korean Christian Fellowship, Indian Christian Fellowship and Newman Catholic Fellowship.

Students at Sage are interested in starting a Newman Club. The Newman Fellowship will assist.

Sunday evening dinners will resume Sunday (11 September).

Other activities:

First meeting - 8 September

Retreat at Pyramid Lake - 29 September

Baking cookies for Joseph House.

Rensselaer Newman Foundation

Mike Diacovo, Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, spoke to the Council on behalf of the Rensselaer Newman Foundation.

The planning and development effort began in the late 1990's to insure that the RNF continues to be a vital part of the changing Rensselaer community. The committee is particularly concerned with issues of succession in the chaplaincy, and the finances necessary to sustain and enhance our programs. Continuing to serve the students of RPI is the primary goal.

The Foundation is anxious to hear the thoughts and needs of the entire community. The Council is invited to participate in the annual meeting to be held on Friday, 21 October. Student participation would be greatly appreciated.

Some History:

Fr. Ed provided a brief history of Newman at Rensselaer, to emphasize our concern for students.

The Newman Club dates back to the 1940's when Monsignor Slavin was the Catholic

chaplain. Tom Phelan became chaplain in 1959, and continued the Newman effort.

In the mid-1960's Fr. Tom held Mass in the "Upper Room" at his residence near the school. This was not a parish, however, and was limited in what sacraments could be celebrated.

The Rensselaer Newman Foundation, and subsequently the Chapel and Cultural Center, were created to bring cultural events to the campus. At first, there was no parish, but the community was elevated to that status by Bishop Broderick.

Today there are three separate, but coordinated, elements to the Newman presence on the RPI campus: the Rensselaer Newman Foundation which includes the C+CC, the University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice, and the Catholic Chaplaincy.

Other Business:

There was continued discussion of two proposed amendments to the bylaws. The first would replace the Hospitality Committee with a Parish Life Committee of somewhat broader scope. It would also eliminate the Parish Administration Committee, which does not appear necessary. Fr. Ed and Rosanne will develop a description of the new Parish Life committee. The second amendment would eliminate the June meeting of the Council as most students have left the campus for the summer. Bill will prepare drafts of both proposed amendments for action in October.

The annual Parish Convening will be held Saturday 29 October. All are urged to participate.

There was a general discussion of the survey and how we might reach out to new students. The question of our relationship to other faith groups was raised. Fr. Ed pointed out that in the past, the Chapel had been made available for services of other faith communities.