

University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice
Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday, 8 February, 2006

Present: Fr. Ed Kacerguis, Marie Venaglia, Rosanne Rose, Christopher Rainey, Bill Webster, Ann Brinnitzer, Brandon Graver, John Goslin, Patrick Heider, Mark Meehan, Lori Fowler

Absent: Matthew Cusack, Suzanne Gutmann

Faith Formation and prayer:

Patrick led the Council in Evening Prayer.

Minutes:

Reviewed action items from the 18 January meeting: the March and April meetings will be held on Tuesday nights to avoid conflict with the Lenten Wednesday programs. (The minutes of 18 January had been reviewed and approved via e-mail.)

Pastor's Report:

- The C+CC web site has been redesigned by Tom Boetig and Eric. The result is very pleasing and easily navigated. Please check for kinks; let Eric know if you find anything.
- To help make the web site easier to find, we have purchased the *.net*, *.com* and *.org* domains for Christ Sun of Justice (*christsunofjustice*), and for the Chapel and Cultural Center (*chapelandculturalcenter*). Once these addresses are factored into the indexes, a search on any one of these combinations should lead directly to our site.
- The Chaplains' page in the RPI web site has also been redesigned.
- Lent is coming. We will start with the usual Mardi Gras party followed by midnight Mass for Ash Wednesday. The Liturgy Committee met last night (7 February), and continues to work on revisions to our Lenten observance, particularly Holy Week. We will keep all the familiar events, but a number of details will be fine tuned. The Council will discuss the changes at the next meeting (7 March.)

Chaplain's and Faith Formation Report:

- Marie attended the Northern Rensselaer County Deanery meeting in January. Pastoral planning continues to be the focus of discussion.
- A meeting of the Rensselaer County catechetical leaders and a cluster meeting

sought ways to coordinate activities and resources.

- The book discussion group met on 1 Feb, and will meet again on 8 March. The book *Knitting* by Anne Bartlett will be the topic of discussion on Wednesday, 22 Feb.
- Confirmation preparation classes have begun for our high school students. This year four will be confirmed in May at St. Bonaventure's Parish. The retreat for candidates will also be held there. This is an example of the coordination which is being developed in the cluster.

Chair's Report

- RCIA: we now have one candidate for baptism and two for confirmation. The Rites of Acceptance and Welcome were conducted at the 5 pm Mass last Sunday.

Committee and Organization Reports:

Social Action Committee (Marie)

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 21 Feb.

Parish Life Committee (Rosanne)

The new Parish Life Committee met on 31 January. Two goals were identified: building community, and keeping costs down. A brainstorming session yielded a number of ideas, which are summarized in notes attached at the end of these minutes.

Newman Catholic Fellowship (Patrick)

Seven members went to Union on 2 Feb. for a lecture by Sister Helen Prejean. This served as an opportunity to meet the Chaplain and Newman organization at Union. We have invited them to a Sunday dinner.

The retreat will be held next Friday.

Alpha and Omega Praise Night will be held 25 February in cooperation with the other RPI Christian groups. There will be prayer, song, dance and a speaker. Funds raised will be divided among hurricane relief, tsunami relief, and St. James School

Knights of Columbus (John)

Currently planning our installation of officers.

Some members are now working with the Boy Scouts.

For a service project the Knights will clean up the grounds around the C+CC and Hospitality House. It may be possible to extend this effort onto parts of the campus.

The web site has been brought up to date.

A "Rosary for Life" pro-life event is being planned.

Additional Comments by Fr. Ed.

Fr. Ed. discussed the requirement for completion of the Virtus Program by anyone working with youth. Marie is trying to arrange for the program to be offered at C+CC. All are urged to get this certification.

The Pre-Cana program will be held on 18 Feb. The Diocesan Family Life Office will assist, as will Ed Spain, Mary Martin and Bill St. John from our own Parish.

Other Business:

Parish Life Ideas

Fr. Ed. asked the Council to consider the ideas which have come from the Parish Life Committee. He explained that our Parish functions must be likened to a "3-D chess game."

Level one, the foundation, includes Mass, the Sacraments, seasonal celebrations, and for students, the pursuit of their studies. Above that, level 2, includes the Knights and Newman Catholic Fellowship, the Welcome Picnic, Social Concerns and similar activities. These level 2 functions are well coordinated with level 1.

The community building proposed by the Parish Life Committee probably belongs on level 3. What is essential is a constructive connection between any new functions and the activities on the two more basic levels. Overload must be avoided. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Annual call for members

The parish will be invited to consider participation on the Council in March. Frank Rose will assist with discernment in April, and new Council officers should be selected in May.

Inactive Council Members

Rosanne asked if the Council should have a policy regarding members who are not able to participate regularly. It was decided that it would be appropriate to approach any such members, and inquire if they wish to continue.

Membership List

Bill circulated the membership list for corrections.

Notes from Parish Life Meeting Jan. 31, 2006

1. Our goals were to build Community; keep the cost down
2. After much discussion we came up with this list of activities (which are only in their formative stage)

A. Seasonal

Fall (early November):

Retreat (vigil) at the C+CC beginning Friday night - ending Sun. at 5 PM Mass.

There would be scheduled and unscheduled activities.

These would include honoring our dead, separations, losses through storytelling, songs etc.

People could come and go as they please during the night and day.

We would have a special intention to remember during this vigil (e.g. peace)

Winter (February): Longest Night During the Shortest Month Celebration
candle festival, pray, dance, and laugh at the darkness

Spring (Easter Season): - Pilgrimage

(on campus or in the neighborhood)

become aware/discover the new life all about and how we have been made new

Summer (June or July): - Group Non-Competitive Games for all ages

(e.g. Parachute, Earth Games)

B. Ongoing

As an ongoing activity host a story project over a period of 6 to 9 months.

Interview members of the parish community and ask them to tell their stories about their life at Christ Sun of Justice.

Edit the responses and create a documentary in concert with the creation of the EMPAC (Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center) on Campus.

C. Other (in no particular order)

1. First International Parish Humor Festival
2. Humidity Survival Day
3. Book group
4. Movie Group
5. A lesson on how to make healthy parish meals
6. Special Prayer Experiences
 - traditional hymns set to pop music
 - Taze
7. Monthly recitation of the Rosary