

University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice
Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2003

Present: Robin Chin, Sue Gutmann, Andrew Hill, Nick Hernandez, Margaret Leathem, Vivien McNaughton, Rosanne Rose, Leah Smith, Rendell Torres, Martha Walsh, Bill Webster, Mary Martin

Absent: Fr. Ed Kacerguis (on sabbatical)

Faith Formation:

The meeting began with a reflection on light and stars (the Star of Bethlehem)

Parish Life Report:

Lent:

Lenten Wednesday plans should be finalized soon. Mary and Peg will help. The speakers are:

- 3/12 Dr. Frank Thomas from St. Patrick's parish. He's a radiologist and oncologist from Schenectady. He will present a program on Social Justice.
- 3/19 Fr. Thomas Kanopka from St. Michael's. He will speak on the Word.
- 3/26 Joan Hogan, the campus minister at St. Rose. She will be speaking on Mary and Lent.
- 4/2 Sister Chris Partisano will be speaking.
- 4/9 Margaret will be speaking.

Fr. Brain Raiche will be helping at the Mardi Gras party and celebrating the midnight Liturgy.

Fr. Jim Donlon will be the celebrant at the Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Vigil liturgies and worship services. The Easter Vigil will begin at 9 PM because of Fr. Jim's schedule.

Since Fr. Ed left on Jan. 10, it's been three very busy days, Margaret did not have anything additional to report at this time. She was asked to let council members know if she needed anything.

Committees:

Liturgy Committee

Ed and Mary Martin will be co-chairing the committee.

Nick and Margaret who had previous experience serving on a Liturgy Committee in another parish shared their experiences and gave some advice.

The Liturgy Committee oversees the Community Liturgy and Prayer and Worship of the Parish. It concerns itself with that happens at the Church's Public Worship – Mass and other Public Gatherings such as Healing Services and Sacraments of the Sick.

One of the basic texts used is a source book from the Liturgy Training Publication. It goes through various details of the celebration. O'Connor's should have them. It addresses the Easter Celebration, Holy Thursday Agape and other opportunities throughout the year.

It was recalled how we used to celebrate the Mass of Fools on All Saints Day. These types of community celebrations are instructive.

For some attending our weekly Sunday Celebrations English is not their first language. It would be nice to add prayers in another language to our petitions. We could possibly ask on the parish sign up sheet what the native language is of our parishioners.

It is important that we don't move too fast.

Training for Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors - The Spains and Margaret have been trained to preside at Sunday Liturgies in the absence of a priest. As time goes on we might want more people trained in this function. We might want to see some of our younger parishioners participate.

In the past we drew people from all over. We were cutting edge. We still draw from a wide area. We used to have a lot of young faculty. The faculty is now much older and they are overworked. The new faculty is single and not Christian. We need to see more students involved. Young adults are transient and are not staying in the area.

Have people in place. Tweak the Liturgy very carefully. Robin and Leah will be part of the Liturgy Committee and will report back to the Pastoral Council. Other names suggested were Anne Cassidy, and Carl..

Social Concerns Committee:

Parishioners made and gave out 225 Christmas baskets. Money was also collected and given to the "Ark" as well as the extra mittens and scarves.

Three \$50 gift certificates were given to the Catholic Worker.

Judy Kapila has collected and distributed over 700 books.

The collection at Crossgates for the Regional Food Bank went well. Next year there we will be collecting on one day instead of two.

Individual shampoos and cakes of soap (from hotels etc.) have been collected for Bethany Center. Bethany runs a soup kitchen and people are able to bathe there.

Recently money that has been collected has been sent to Bethany Center and to Unity House. A suggestion that we support Joseph's House as well was referred to the Social Action Committee for discussion.

The Newman Fellowship has made dinners for Joseph's House. After they went apple picking, they made apple pies and sold them. They used the money they collected to buy food for Joseph's House.

Church Administration

J. Eric Smith will be chairing the Church Administration Committee. Rendell will be the council representative on that committee.

Young Adult Ministry

Rendell and Kelly went to a Young Adult Workshop entitled "Why We're Called to be Ministers."

Young adults in our parish are typically approximately 22 through the mid 30's. As we are forming a young adult group in the parish, it was suggested that it be called ministry instead of group. The word "group" is exclusive. Ministry has a more outward focus.

It was suggested in the workshop that people take responsibility for an event and the formation of young adult faith sharing groups.

Bylaws

Nick made some suggestions to the bylaws that will make them more in sync with Canon Law. At the next meeting the bylaws will be finalized, approved, and signed by Council members.

