

University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice  
Pastoral Council Meeting  
Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Present: Robin Chin, Andrew Hill, Margaret Leathem, Vivien McNaughton, Rosanne Rose, Leah Smith, Rendell Torres, Martha Walsh, Bill Webster, Al Saraceni (Observer)

Absent: Sue Gutmann, Nick Hernandez, Fr. Ed Kacerguis (on sabbatical)

### **Faith Formation**

The meeting began with a reflection on darkness and light led by Andrew

### **Parish Life Report**

Margaret began by discussing and mentioning all the upcoming activities that will be occurring in our Parish. Just by looking at the Parish bulletin, it is noticeable how busy we are. Some of these activities include:

A retreat opportunity for college students from Russell Sage and RPI on Palm Sunday at The Priory led by Sister Connie.

A Spaghetti Supper on March 30<sup>th</sup> after the 5 PM Liturgy to raise funds for seven of our high school students desiring to attend a youth conference in Houston, November 13 – 16 of this year. The theme of the conference is Social Justice. Bill McLaughlin is chairing the supper.

A Bible Study on Sunday evenings led by Donna Bedard.

A mini-retreat offered by The Young Adult Ministry for the entire parish on the afternoon of March 29.

Also on March 29, Margaret, 2 high school students, and a college student will attend a National Workshop on Scripture at St. Matthew's in Voorheersville. The training that the students will receive, will allow them to mentor and begin a scripture sharing group for high school and college students next fall.

At the C+CC, Eric is very busy programming and getting exhibits. On the table are promotional materials. He is working on revamping the Festival For Religion and the Arts. He sent out an appeal letter for funding to bring in David Greenberger, a founder of a magazine on aging, to record and interview aging people and then putting their stories to music. This would be the premier event in the fall. Tomorrow, Christopher Ringwald, an Albany Author of the year, will be making a presentation on "Spirituality in Recovery from Addiction: The Conflict with Science and Religion."

There is a new digital piano in the back room. Carl brought it to our attention. The old piano had a broken soundboard.

A group of college students are interested in doing the Stations of the Cross on April 9 at 7:30 in the back room. They seem to be interested in praying in a more traditional way.

An Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace will be held next Wednesday at 1 pm in the Chapel.

Margaret is working closely with Father Jim Donlon. They will schedule a Mass for the Sacrament of the Sick in May.

The Penance Service will be held on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

A faculty memorial service will be held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and a staff memorial service will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, a Farewell Luncheon will be held for Peg Murtaugh. It was suggested that a Sunday coffee hour also be held to thank Peg.

There was a brief discussion on the Sunday Bulletin. It was mentioned that Fr. Ed wants to change the format of the bulletin. Lianne is working on the graphic design. The question is how to present the information in the best manner. Rendell suggested partitioning of the information. It was suggested that the important items and events be announced at each Mass.

## **Committees**

### Faith Formation

At the last meeting we discussed many suggestions for programs. Three members of the committee will draft a summary of these suggestions. These will be presented to members of the Pastoral Council at the next meeting.

### Church Administration

Rendell still hasn't met with Eric. Eric has been very busy and he is waiting to meet with Margaret. Margaret will set something up.

### Social Concerns

The Committee met with a women to discuss an Ethiopian project. They are in need of surgical supplies and books. The question is how to get them over there.

## Hospitality

No new items to report.

## Liturgy Committee

No new items to report.

## **Other**

In response to Bill's question: "Where do we go from here?" the council raised the following issues and suggestions:

We need to conduct a survey to ascertain what parishioners are thinking and how we can improve parish life.

We need to develop something like a three year plan.

We need to reach people who aren't here. A lot of RPI's students are registered as Catholic. There are students who don't come to Church. It was noted that a lot of students come to the 5 pm Mass on Sunday but we need to attract the larger group.

In order to reach the students, they need to hear what the parish is doing from a student's perspective. Andrew volunteered to help in this effort.

The Hospitality Committee needs to become involved in the Festival of Religion and the Arts.

Rendell stated that students have a need to be in touch with the "spiritual."

Not a lot of students know about the social action committee.

As a service oriented activity students could offer tutoring. The students can do the service and offer it as part of the Church.

We need to outdo the activist and the humanist. We can do the same thing but associate it with faith in action. Students will see that it's real. We can choose one charity; one issue.

Bill suggested communicating with the other Newman clubs on other campuses.

Father Ed wants to develop one or two signature events to say that "This is the Catholic Church at Rensselaer."

Margaret suggested that at Sunday Liturgies we try to meet a new person. Go up

to a student and introduce yourself. Also we can get people who normally don't do it to do the collection and to bring up the gifts.

The council needs time for ideas to develop. One half of our job in the parish is visionary and then the other half is helping to get it done.