

University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice
Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Present: Andrew Hill, Margaret Leathem, Vivien McNaughton, Rosanne Rose, Bill Webster, Rendell Torres, Fr. Ed Kacerguis

Absent: Nick Hernandez, Leah Smith, Martha Walsh, Robin Chin, Sue Gutmann

Faith Formation

The meeting began with a reflection on a statement made by Nelson Mandela in his 1994 Inaugural Speech

Pastor's Report

Fr. Ed expressed his personal thanks and the gratitude of the Pastoral Council to Margaret for her stellar leadership in his absence. She has really done an outstanding job.

Fr. Tom suffered a fall in the sacristy last Wednesday. His injuries include 5 broken ribs and he is presently hospitalized. We should know more about his prognosis by the end of the week. An update will be placed in Sunday's bulletin.

The Bishop's Appeal is now going on.

The Capital Campaign for the Diocese will begin in the Parish after the Bishop's Appeal is over. Our Parish needs to come up with \$40,000. This is down significantly from the original amount of debt because of considerable contributions that some parish members have made. Fr. Ed. will write a letter to each parishioner asking for a pledge that can be paid over a two-year period. Any amount that is collected over the \$40,000 stays within the parish.

One of the functions of the Pastoral Council is "visioning." In regards to this, Fr. Ed and Margaret will be offering a course, "Catholicism 101" in the fall. It will be serve as a refresher and an introduction. Anyone who has any suggestions on possible topics should contact Fr. Ed or Margaret.

Rick Hart, the current director of the Rensselaer Student Union and a former director of the Chapel + Cultural Center, is thrilled about the great job that Eric is doing. He is considering making matching funds available for us next year to assist us.

1,100 new people have come into the C+CC this spring through Eric's programs. The publicity continues. The building and grounds are impeccable.

Fr. Ed said that he has become increasingly more aware of the role that our Parish has

played in reconciliation. Many people have returned to the Church through our Parish and community. Some have stayed as members; some have moved on. He has been hearing this for a while but while he was away he met a priest in Australia who also stated this. He shared with Fr. Ed some knowledge that he had about people he knew personally who had experienced reconciliation through our Parish and faith community. Fr. Ed exhorted us to continue to offer ourselves as agents of reconciliation to people we know and invite them to come and worship with us.

Fr. Ed said that he felt that as a result of the “American Tragedy” in the Church (which is not just “American.”) the Holy Spirit is calling His people to be more actively involved in their faith.

Our Parish has a student focus. Students have to struggle on how to integrate faith into academics and we have become a training ground for them. We encourage them to take leadership positions, participate as catechists and to get up and minister to us as lectors. When we see students we should thank them for helping us to pray. As they use their gifts, they remind us of our gifts.

Fr. Ed’s theme while on sabbatical was, “Made in the Image and Likeness of God.” In the near future he will share insights that he has gained and perspectives on his experiences while he was away.

Committees

Faith Formation Committee

Responding to the Committee’s recommendation that development of Faith Formation activities be tied to the needs and desires of the Parish community, the Council discussed the use of a survey. A concern was raised that a survey would not be effective because it would only go to those present, not to those (especially in the University community) who do not regularly attend Mass. It was suggested that we could possibly tie the survey with a social event and that we could also make better use of the interest forms included with the yearly membership forms. Discussion will continue.

Election of Officers

A motion for the election of officers was made and approved. The incumbents agreed to continue if wanted. No additional nominations were made; and the council reelected Bill Webster, Chair; Andrew Hill, Vice-Chair; and Rosanne Rose, Secretary.

Other

The question of how we define success was raised. Sunday attendance isn’t the way. A minister can’t look at numbers. The question needs to be reframed.

Next Meeting

A meeting schedule will be set up for next year. The secretary will canvass council members to determine preferences and weekly commitments.