

University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice
Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Present: Andrew Hill, Margaret Leathem, Vivien McNaughton, Rosanne Rose, Bill Webster, Rendell Torres, Fr. Ed Kacerguis, Robin Chin, Sue Gutmann, Martha Walsh

Absent: Nick Hernandez, Leah Smith

Faith Formation

Margaret and Robin shared insights they had gained on culture for the course that they offered for Spring Enrichment. The name of course was called, "The Lens Through Which We Look." It was a conscious raising course. Participants reflected on their personal lenses and then focused on the lenses of their particular parishes. Margaret suggested that sometime in the future it might be beneficial to look at how our parish views its "world" through its lens.

In response to Margaret and Robin's insights and sharing, members presented suggestions for possible future activities. These including doing a mini Festival of Nations, or at least promoting the festival that RPI already holds; or celebrating various festivals for various saints, with student participation being an integral part. The consensus was that we need to broaden our lens.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Tom is now in Heritage House. As part of his therapy people are encouraged to visit. This will provide him with needed stimulation.

We are not where we should be for the Bishop's Appeal. Fr. Ed will make an announcement on Sunday.

After the first of July a letter regarding the Capital Campaign for the Diocese will be sent to each parishioner asking for a pledge that can be paid over a two-year period.

There has been some talk about possible changes to the fall Mass schedule because of Fr. Tom's illness and the personnel issue (Fr. Ed may have to provide coverage elsewhere). Until we are told differently, we will keep the usual schedule.

Mary is now preparing the budget. Parish contributions are certainly in the ball park but unfortunately expenses are higher. For example, because of the severe weather this winter, we had to pay for plowing. The alumni contributions are down a little bit which is probably due to the economy. We are operating on a very tight budget.

Some young families, who are non-RPI related are becoming members of the Parish.

Some RPI babies will be baptized in their home countries.

What Margaret and Robin shared with us about cultural sensitivity was very important, especially knowing yourself before you can discuss ecumenism.

Committees

1. Social Concerns Committee

The Social Concerns Committee will not take on a “twinning project.” We do not have the people to take this on and Fr. John Spain has indicated that he has already twinned with a parish in Chicago.

Sue was originally asked to oversee the Social Concerns Committee for a year. Her year is now coming to an end. A new chair will have to be found.

2. Liturgy and Hospitality Committees

There has been no progress yet on the Liturgy Committee. We still need a chair and a program for this committee. Robin has agreed to still be a member.

Fran Hyde is willing to work on a few events but does not want to chair the Hospitality Committee. She will write up a list of things to do.

Margaret has offered to get the Liturgy and Hospitality Committee off the ground during the summer. Andrew and Vivien will help with Hospitality.

3. Administration Committee

After the June meeting of the Executive Committee of the Rensselaer Newman Foundation, the Administration Committee will begin to meet.

Meeting Schedule

Members were canvassed to determine what evenings of the week would be best for scheduling the monthly meeting of the Council. The consensus was that Tuesdays would be best at 7 PM. The following meeting schedule was set up for the beginning of the next school year:

September 9, 2003
October 14, 2003
November 4, 2003
December 2, 2003
January 13, 2004

Council Vacancy

Because of personal decisions, Nick Hernandez has decided to resign from the Pastoral Council. All Council members wanted to thank him for his service and to extend their best wishes to him.

The council considered what they should do regarding this newly created vacancy. During the lengthy discussion many possibilities were raised including reconvassing parish members who had originally expressed interest to serve on the council, putting a notice in the bulletin to see who is currently interested, just appointing someone to serve, and continuing the council as it is until spring when the bylaws call for canvassing for new members. It appeared that resolution at this meeting was not forthcoming. A special meeting of the Council to discuss this issue further will be held on Wednesday, June 25th at 7 PM. In the meantime members were asked to keep the matter in prayer.