

University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice
Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Present: Rosanne Rose, Andrew Hill, Bill Webster, Fr. Ed Kacerguis, Sue Gutmann, Mark Meehan, Leah Smith, Rebecca Lamb

Absent: Rendell Torres, Matthew Cusack, Robin Chin

Faith Formation and Opening Prayer: Rosanne gave a brief history of the Liturgy of the Hours from its origins in ancient Judaism to current practice in the Catholic Church. A portion of the evening prayer was used as the opening prayer for the meeting.

Brainstorming Session

Andrew led a “no holds barred” brainstorming session to elicit ideas from the Council. Responses were sorted into categories corresponding to the major committees. Results have been transcribed and may be found at the end of the minutes.

Pastor’s Report:

- Family weekend on the RPI campus will be 15-17 October. To welcome our guests, there will be a “Wine and Cheese Gathering” hosted by the Brennan’s after the 5:15 Mass. There will also be a Coffee Hour after 10:30 am Mass, hosted by the Newman Catholic Fellowship.
- Marie Venaglia , the new Catholic Chaplain, will begin on 1 November. There will be a Coffee Hour hosted by the Knights of Columbus on 31 October to introduce and welcome her.
- Our cluster parishes will host a lecture by John Allen on Thursday, 11 November. The event will probably be held at Our Lady of Victory.
- A Diocesan survey of Mass attendance is being conducted during October. In our parish this includes two atypical weekends: 9-10 Oct, when attendance is expected to be lower than usual due to the holiday, and 16-17 October when Family Weekend will bring many visitors. These facts have been explained, and there will be no difficulty with the survey results.
- This year Christmas falls on Saturday. The normal Sunday Mass obligation applies the next day, 26 December, however there will be only one Mass, 10:30 am, in our parish. The following week, Saturday 1 January, is not a holy day of obligation.

Chair's Report:

Rosanne has met individually with each member of the Council. Some of the suggestions she received are:

The Council needs to be more connected to the Parish.

The Council minutes need to be more accessible

The Parish need more information on the St. James School project.

Students appreciate a quiet place apart from the campus and are not anxious to have the C+CC connected to the RPI network.

She intends to continue meeting with various Parish groups and Committees

Committee Reports:

Liturgy Committee:

- A "Teaching Mass" will be held on a weekday, not Sunday, during Advent. Specific date and time to be announced.
- Our Thanksgiving Liturgy will be celebrated Wednesday evening, 24 November, at 6:15 pm. Mass will be followed by a simple meal of soups, salads, breads and desserts. Participants will be asked to bring a can of non-perishable food for the needy.

Social Action Committee:

- Sue is in the process of turning over the Committee to Katrin St. John. Rendell has volunteered to serve as the Pastoral Council representative on the Committee.

Newman Catholic Fellowship:

- The retreat went well. There have also been excellent discussion groups the last few weeks.
- The pie sale raised \$377, which will be used for various service projects.
- The Newman Club of SUNY Albany has invited the Fellowship participate in their weekly ritual on Thursday 14 October.
- Planning has begun for a Spring retreat.
- Other upcoming activities include work at the Food Bank this month, and work on Christmas Baskets.

- Rebecca asked if it would be appropriate to invite the Knights of Columbus to send a representative to the Council. The idea was favorably received by the Council.

Faith Formation:

- A 4th grade teacher is graduating. We need to find a replacement.
- RCIA will begin next week. The program will be based on *What makes us Catholic* by Thomas H. Groome. There are currently two students enrolled, but experience indicates that the number will grow as the course progresses.
- Donna Bedard is considering offering the Bible Study class to the cluster in the hope of developing a larger group.

Other:

- The Parish Convening will be held Sat. Oct. 30th at LaSalle.

Pastoral Council Brainstorming Session

Administration

Feasibility study of expanded food preparation and service capabilities at C+CC

Make library available to parish

Faith Formation

Book club

Better communication between RCIA and the rest of the parish - people who have been in RCIA could help and share their experiences

Cosmic walk

Enhancement of Faith Formation for youth

Adult program for Faith Formation in conjunction with cluster

Social Concerns

Provide more regular feedback to parish on accomplishments of social projects

Produce a new social action brochure for parish

Energized Social Concerns Committee and projects for parish

Liturgy

Masses or get-togethers on campus

Suggestion box - find out what people miss from home parishes

Expanded training for Eucharistic Ministers - prepare spiritually and develop appreciation for their special role in the Mass.

Liturgical dance

Provide opportunity for personal additions to community petitions

Meetings with lectors to work on professing Faith (workshops?)

Invite all to join hands during the Lord's Prayer

Hospitality

Ice cream social

Parish dance

Welcoming event for Marie Venaglia, get-to-know-you type of thing

An activity/event on which the parish and students can work together, "Fall Festival"

Activity to bring parish and students together: pizza, hockey game, etc.

More greeting time before fist song at Mass - Task: learn something about each other

Hockey night

Si-Fi night

Christmas caroling

Hospitality committee venues for more interaction between parishioners - get to know each other

Welcomers at door - try to learn names

Newman

Hay ride

Newman work with Religious Education classes

Cluster

Initiate contact with cluster parishes at Pastoral Council level: invite representatives, send representatives if invited

Other

Survey for parish interests

Survey

Gathering (breakfast) after 9:00 Mass

More sports teams

T-shirts (fund raiser)

Thanksgiving morning: volunteers for Equinox, followed by pizza

Continue to explore parish trips - Why no interest in Paul Winter concert? What would interest parish?

Student care packages

More bake sales pies etc.