

University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice
Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday, 1 December 2004

Present: Rosanne Rose, Andrew Hill, Bill Webster, Fr. Ed Kacerguis, Marie Venaglia, Sue Gutmann, Mark Meehan, Rebecca Lamb, Robin Chin, Matthew Cusack, Matt Kosara

Absent: Rendell Torres, Leah Smith

Faith Formation and Prayer:

A portion of the evening prayer was used as the prayer for the meeting.

Rebecca reviewed the second chapter of *What Makes Us Catholic* by Thomas H. Groome. Particularly notable ideas included: Human beings are made in the image of God and are basically good; and we give glory to God by simply being alive.

Brainstorming Session:

Andrew presented the brainstorming ideas as evaluated by the Council in November. The numerical scores are not significant, just the relative merit based on the four criteria: (1) time and effort required to implement, (2) financial implications, (3) other resource requirements, and (4) anticipated impact. The rank ordered list is provided at the end of the minutes.

Pastor's Report:

- The presentation by John Allen was very successful both as a Cluster event, and as an aid to understanding our Faith.
- The trial Thanksgiving observation consisting of Mass and a simple supper on Wednesday night was a "raging success." Approximately 60 parishioners participated. It definitely attracted some who could not have attended on Thanksgiving day.
- World AIDS Day will be observed with a Campus memorial service, and display of an AIDS quilt.
- This year the schedule of Liturgies for Christmas and New Years weekends is complicated by the rules governing holy days which fall on weekends.

Chaplain's Report:

- Marie reports that she is getting acclimated to her new surroundings and duties.

Chair's Report:

- Met with Matt Kosara and the Hospitality Committee

Committee and Organization Reports:

Liturgy Committee (Rosanne):

- The Liturgy committee will meet on 9 December.

Social Concerns Committee (Rosanne):

- The Social Concerns Committee will meet on 7 December.

Hospitality (Matt Cusack and Mark Meehan):

- Greater emphasis is being given to the Ministry of Greeting. A special effort was made to greet parishioners at the Thanksgiving Mass.
- For the last two weeks, Marie has been greeting parishioners at the door with the bulletin. This is a good way to get acquainted, but this can not be a one person effort. More people are needed for this function.
- Name tags will be used at coffee hours.
- Further consideration should be given to some kind of a parish list. To determine preferences, this will probably become a subject on the parish survey which is being developed.

Faith Formation (Marie):

- A new catechist will start this Sunday
- Faith formation leaders for the cluster parishes will be meeting periodically

Newman Catholic Fellowship (Rebecca):

- The Newman Fellowship will work on Christmas baskets.
- Fellowship officers for 2005 will be elected at the 8 December meeting.

Knights of Columbus (Matt Kosara)

- The Knights are a Catholic family fraternal order, dedicated to serving the Church and community. The RPI Council currently has 32 members.
- The primary accomplishment this semester has been gaining recognition by both the Supreme Knight and the Rensselaer Union.

- A web site and brochure describing the RPI Council are being developed.
- The Knights were responsible for the “Clothe a Child” appeal at the 8 December RPI hockey game. (Fr. Ed added that more than \$200 had been received for this cause.)

Change to the By-laws

The Council gave final approval to the proposed amendment to the by-laws which was discussed in November. This change increases the size of the Council to 13 members by making the Grand Knight of the RPI Council of the Knights of Columbus an ex officio member.

Parish Survey

The Council decided to proceed with a Parish Survey. The current objective is to develop proposed questions in time for the February Council meeting. Andrew will lead this effort.

Parish Convening

Members of the Council who participated in the Parish convening briefly described the sessions they attended.

Meeting Schedule

The Council will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings during the Spring 2005 semester. Meeting dates are: 19 January, 2 February, 2 March, 6 April, 4 May and 1 June. Bill will reserve spaces for the meetings.

Categories and Ideas, In Ranked order of Importance

FAITH FORMATION

Better communication between RCIA and the rest of the parish
Adult program for Faith Formation in conjunction with cluster
Book club
Enhancement of Faith Formation for youth
Cosmic Walk

ADMINISTRATION

Feasibility study of expanded food preparation and service capacities at C+CC
Make library available to parish

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

LITURGY

Expanded training for Eucharistic Ministers
Liturgical dance
Personal additions to community petitions
Suggestion box
Masses or get-togethers on campus

NEWMAN

Hay ride

HOSPITALITY

Christmas Caroling
Welcomers at the door
More greeting time before first song at Mass
Sci-Fi night
Hockey Night
Ice cream social
Parish Dance
Activity to bring parish and students together... e.g. pizza party

OTHER

Bake sales
More sports
Thanksgiving morning
Student care packages
Breakfast after 9:00 AM Mass
T-shirts, fundraiser
Survey
Continue to explore parish trips

