

SEPTEMBER 2010 PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

(9/8/2010, 6:15-7:25 PM, C+CC Lounge)

<u>Present:</u>	Brenda Williams (Chair), Fr. Edward Kacerguis (Pastor), Matt Callaghan, Wilson Crone, David Dziewulski, Jacqueline Fable, Paul Kraus, Jameson Price
<u>Excused</u>	Fran Hyde, Phillip Maas, Nicholas Wengrenovich

Fr. Kacerguis opened the meeting with prayer.

Chair Report (B. Williams):

- Roll call and correction of roster.
- Minutes from the April meeting approved.
- Confirmation of schedule for 2010-2011. Exceptions to the times/dates posted on the C + CC web site: 12/8: Holy Day [Council meeting at 7 pm following Mass], March and April dates both fall during the Lenten Wednesday series, and there will be a meeting in May [5-11-2010].
- Follow up on parish survey from 2005, where Roseanne Rose and Marie Venaglia had spearheaded the previous effort. After discussion, the council agreed to update the contact information in the survey, and prepare it for distribution/completion during Mass of the weekend of September 25/26, 2010. The additional question will be whether those that are RPI students are new to the parish.
- As part of the discussion, the question arose regarding congregational turnover rate and the percentages of new parish memberships. With respect to nonstudent, the congregation is stable, with < 5% turnover. The active, enrolled, student population has been averaging about 30 seniors, with more freshmen signing up. Student members of the council were asked to encourage fellow students to register with the parish, as other pastors will want confirmation that they attend Mass regularly.
- Anne Tory, the new director of the C+CC, and Sr. Clarisse Correia have been invited to Pastoral Council meetings. There is still some discussion regarding a parish retreat with Sr. Clarisse later this fall, e.g., October. The student Newman Fellowship does one each semester, with the fall one scheduled for the weekend of Sept 24/26th.

Pastor's Report (Fr. Kacerguis):

- Anne Tory now as interim director at C+CC has been very active with behind the scenes actions.
- Given that the Graduation Mass was not well attended, a suggestion following discussion with Jim Fry would be to have the last 5 pm Mass of the year with a combination graduation/farewell focus.
- The summer at the C+CC was busy, not eventful, e.g., with flyers prepped for the year (through to Ash Wednesday). Notably, there were five funerals this summer, high for a parish of this size.
- Student Orientation during the summer went well with representation, e.g., with Jackie Fable representing both the chaplain and Newman Fellowship; visitation days for prospective students are coming up this fall.
- The welcome picnic on 9/5/2010 went well except for an injury at the end. There were many freshmen parents in attendance. More than 125 scarves were collected.
- Alumni reunion weekend starting 10/15/2010, with Family Weekend starting 10/22/2010.
- Beatification of Cardinal Newman on 9/19/2010. In response, the C+CC will be putting out visuals of Cardinal Newman (one the classic older, cardinal look) and making up cards with additional information, e.g., the famous prayers. A number of T shirts with the Robert Lentz icon of Cardinal Newman. After discussion with the students, the C+CC will not broadcast the 9/19 ceremony, but will give out prayer cards during that weekend, and probably address his feast day of 9 October with the liturgy that day.
- Budget from the Rensselaer Newman Foundation is available to parishioners.

- Speaker on Thomas Merton (e.g., *The Seven Storey Mountain*) in early October.
- Given the status of the Hospitality House roof and paint, those had to be contracted. In general, if there is not a response from the pastor's office within 24 hours after email, a phone follow up would be appropriate.
- A brief discussion on upcoming liturgy changes ensued, with Fr. Kacerguis reassuring regarding the extent of those changes. The main change is the translation of some prayers with some new prayers added; *St. Anthony's Messenger* highlights materials. Some acclamation music will be changed. Fr. Ed acknowledged that liturgy had been changing since 1954. In the US, the changes will be happening in the first Sunday of Advent in 2011 in Cycle B.

Knights of Columbus Report (J. Price):

- Recruiting 8-10 new names at Activities Fair and Welcome Picnic combined.
- First formal meeting 9/7/2010, focused on issues such as fundraising and upcoming audit. The New York State council has been a bit laggard collecting dues, and now is interested in collecting back dues.
- First degree ceremony upcoming in Latham.
- October/November: Holy Hour, e.g., for All Soul's Day, with KOC plans for holding two to four during an academic year. A March possibility exists, given the late timing of Easter this year. There may be a consideration of one before Lent, e.g., 3/25/2010, Annunciation.
- Anticipation of more joint projects with RNF and KOC.
- The Rensselaer KOC has been active, winning the Fr. McGiveny award with their numbers. Given this level of activity, is there a place at the C+CC to display the charter prominently?
- Consider planning the year right away, e.g., with Fr. Kacerguis suggesting the annual Clothe a Child drive as a publicity issue, wearing the KOC polos underneath the "Clothe a Child" shirt.
- Emmaus House: needs are food and transportation for people at this point, so both Price Chopper cards and CDTA cards are intended foci of contributions.

Newman Fellowship Report (M. Callaghan):

- New names (30 or so) at the Activities Fair and Welcome Picnic.
- Fundraisers e.g., pie baking, will be put into place before Family Weekend.
- Fall retreat 9/24-26 at South Orange NJ.

Parish Life (NR):

- Update of roster and commitment to recruit new members and chair for the Parish Life Committee. As part of recruitment, will consider options to the three year term. B. Williams and W. Crone will remain as officers.
- In general, the Chaplain report through Pastor.
- 10/29/2010: next Rensselaer Newman Foundation board meeting.
- Card for Roseanne Rose, following injury.

The meeting concluded with prayer by Fr. Kacerguis.

Submitted By: Wilson Crone