

November 2011 PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

(11/7/2011, 6:30-7:35 PM, C+CC Lounge)

<u>Present:</u>	Fr. Edward Kacerguis (Pastor), James Brennan, Katherine Clemente, Wilson Crone, Fran Hyde, Paul Kraus, Philip Maas, Robert Thayer, Charles Van Benschoten
<u>Excused</u>	David Dziewulski, Miriam Efken, Matt Trosa

Mr. Kraus opened the meeting with prayer.

Chair Report (P. Kraus):

- Minutes from the October meeting approved.
- Agenda distributed. This will be including a topic of discussion for each meeting (Parish Life tonight).
- Availability for the rest of the spring term to be calculated once students sign up for spring schedules.
- Continuation of photo taking with a goal of generating a poster of the Pastoral Council.

Pastor's Report (Fr. Kacerguis):

- 11/4/2011: Foundation meeting and Committee of 100 dinner. Events included formal designation of the Chapel + Cultural Center on the National Historical Register (<http://www.nps.gov/nr/>) and a formal donation from Sondra Christian of a painting from Br. Mickey McGrath (<http://www.beestill.org/>). The artist will be sending a description of the iconography to hang next to the picture.
- 11/13/2011: Sr. Clarisse will offer final liturgy update before Advent. At 10:30 am and 5 pm Mass, Father Vosso '97 (St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Braintree MA) will be the celebrant.
- Thanksgiving program; hosting opportunities for students on campus.
- Western Group (<http://www.westerngroup.com/home.aspx>) will be working on repair of the C+CC for current patching of leaks and cracks, with a goal of restoration of the whole building.
- Shoe collection in conjunction with Delmar Bootery successful; effective on a two-year cycle.
- Food collection, monies go to Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York (<http://www.rfbneny.com/>), with nonperishable items to Unity House (<http://www.unityhouseny.org/>).
- 10/22/2011: Reunion and Homecoming and 10/29/2011: Family weekend both went well.
- Coffee Hour signup sheet posted through the academic year.
- 12/14-12/20/211: Fall semester exams.
- 1/23/2012: students return.
- Parish membership numbers to be announced at the next meeting. Student membership does not supersede home parish, but does allow for affirmation of status for confirmation sponsorship or honor attendant.

Newman Fellowship Report (P. Maas):

- 10/29/2011: Successful coffee hour and pie baking (~\$400 so far).
- Ongoing retreat planning and fundraising for next year. Anonymous donation helped with the fall retreat, but these are increasingly expensive.
- New officers to be voted in soon.

Knights of Columbus Report (P. Maas):

- New member has successfully pursued second degree status.
- Updating web site (<http://koc.union.rpi.edu/>) to include pictures of members.
- Will run RCDA Virtus training here (http://www.rcda.org/virtus_program.html); such training may or may not transfer from one diocese to another. All C+CC staff members went through the training.
- Forming a first degree team allow induction on site; this will also be useful for sponsoring groups to meet here, as college chapters often need access to space.
- Alternating Tuesdays with meeting and rosary prayer has been a successful pattern.
- 11/12/2011: Clothe-A-Child collection.

Parish Life Committee (P. Kraus):

- A number of the activities sponsored by the Parish Life Council have been unsuccessful, leading to re-evaluation of fit and relevance. Typically, these efforts have been more at the social level than at the religious, but with a goal of encouraging interactions among student and community members. A clear charter for the group would be helpful to direct the activities, as could better integration with ongoing sponsored events at the C+CC. Where one person has been a champion, e.g., the ladies' candlelight dinner, an event has been successful, but often when that individual steps down, there is less interest.
- Welcome Picnic is a good model for student-community interactions. Could Halloween be decoupled from All Saints, so that all could be there at once, e.g., for pumpkin carving or other activities which appeal to a wide variety of age groups. There would be fewer competing issues if held during the week.
- One challenge for the Parish Life Committee is not having student representation, and so being less aware of competing on-campus activities. A model of co-chairs, one a student and one from the community, could be successful. The parish, Newman Fellowship, and Knights of Columbus have all been relatively autonomous. Blending between students and community has occurred where there are set events, e.g., Mardi Gras and Halloween.
- Another model of events that would be conducive for the whole community and would involve a service/sacramental component could be an activity highlighted by Ms. Clemente from a previous parish. In short, in preparation for shut-ins, Easter cookies were baked, decorated, packaged, and delivered to homebound parishioners. (http://www.nehealth.com/Retirement_Living/About_Retirement_Living/). This could be expanded to involve nursing homes and retirement communities nearby. Baking cookies (or donations, e.g., from Cookie Factory), assembling tins, delivering could all be integrated or separate steps. Two individuals, one student and one from the community, would be appropriate to spearhead the effort. Ms. Clemente noted her interest, and Mr. Maas will contact students, not just those in current Newman Fellowship or Knights of Columbus leadership roles.
- Lenten Wednesday: in addition to food and speakers, are there other incentives to increase student attendance. A likely feature is the hectic time of that part of the spring semester.

The meeting concluded with prayer by Mr. Kraus.

Submitted By: Wilson Crone