

September 2013 PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
(9/12/2013, 6:30-7:30 PM, C+CC Lounge)

<u>Present:</u>	Fr. Edward Kacerguis (Pastor), Veronica Ahiati, James Brennan, Russell Brown, Kathleen Flynn, Jean Francois, Frederick Gallo, Fran Hyde, Robert Thayer, William Webster, Reece Kearney
<u>Excused</u>	Dn. Joseph Romand, Katherine Clemente, Felipe Ortiz

Fr. Kacerguis opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes and Chair report (F. Gallo):

- Approval of May 2013 minutes postponed until October 2013 meeting.
- Welcome to new members and welcome back to returning members.

Pastor's Report (Fr. Kacerguis):

- Summer concert with Mary Simoni, Dean of HASS, was a success. About 75 people attended a picnic outside and the concert inside the C+CC. She is planning a Lenten/Easter concert.
- The Welcome Back Picnic was fun for all, including the contest which was well received. The increased parishioner participation was noticed. Thanks to Jean, Nick, and Carrie, and everyone who made it happen. Planning is underway for next year.
- The website is up and running, just beyond beta stage and being fine-tuned.
<http://www.chapelandculturalcenter.org/> It is now easier to update as it is no longer hosted behind the campus firewalls.
- The C+CC is now on Facebook. https://www.facebook.com/groups/28318964388/?ref=br_tf
- Social concerns activities are not always recognized as such. Examples include:
 - The Women's Field Hockey team will be selling cheesecakes after Masses
 - The Relay for Life
 - The special collections for Damien House, which raised about \$950 after Masses
 - Mittens and scarves collected to be donated to students at School 2
 - About \$300 was sent to St. James School last week; this money keeps their buses running
- Joe Romand has been assigned to the parish as a permanent deacon and is a welcome addition.
- New students have been welcomed and are connecting with the Newman Fellowship and Knights of Columbus.
- Upcoming event: Thursday, October 31 – Friday, November 1: Halloween Party and All Saints Day.
- The budget for the year ended in the black, with a reduction in the subsidy from the Foundation endowment.

Newman Fellowship Report (K. Flynn):

- Planning over the summer was conducted via Google hangouts.
- Navigating Rensselaer and Beyond (Student Orientation) event – Root beer floats and yard games at Hospitality House on 8/24/13, the Saturday before classes started; about 30 people attended, and several stayed for Mass.
- About 55 people signed up at the Activities Fair
- Meetings are 8 pm on Thursdays. The theme for the semester is Catholic Character. The first meeting of the semester was held on 9/5/13, including ice breakers and the rosary. The second meeting will be on 9/22/13 with a discussion of the Creed.
- The first dinner was held on Sunday, 9/8/13. About 35 people attended, making for a crowded house. Someone is signed up to prepare almost every dinner this semester.
- The Newman Fellowship is working on developing T-shirts.
- 9/20/2013-9/22/2013: Fall retreat scheduled again for St. Mary's on the Lake (Lake George):
<http://www.stmaryslakegeorge.com/> - Russell Brown and Tina Gilliland will lead. Cost will be about \$30/student.
- 10/6/2013: Reception for Newman Fellowship alumni in conjunction with Reunion and Homecoming after 10:30 Mass. Fr. Tom Phelan's induction into the Rensselaer Hall of Fame will be celebrated. There is a sign up at the alumni website. <http://www.alumni.rpi.edu/reunion/>

Knights of Columbus Report (R. Kearney):

- The new website is functioning. <http://koc.union.rpi.edu/>
- More than 10 signed up at the Activities Fair, which is more than usual. 3 new members have already attended events.
- Habitat for Humanity building event on 10/12/13. Space is limited and sign-up is required.
- The Knights are researching whether there is an opportunity to help Damian House with their rebuilding efforts.
- First Degree Initiation is being planned for late October.
- Adam Olmstead, an alumnus, is in position as Financial Secretary.
- First Degree Initiation was held last week for 1 RPI member and 3 Cohoes members.
- Popular ongoing Monday night Catholicism video and discussion series continues.

Vice-Chair Report (F. Gallo):

- Discussion of role of Vice-Chair as preparation for Chair. Anyone interested in the position of Vice-Chair should contact Mr. Gallo.

Old Business:

- Ornament sale to benefit St. James School (W. Webster): Volunteers have been and continue to craft ornaments. Sale is planned for first weekend in December (12/6/13 – 12/8/13). They are hoping for assistance from the Knights and Newman Fellowship so that crafters do not need to sell their own crafts. Pricing is still to be determined.
- Parish fundraiser (F. Gallo): Paul Kraus is organizing the event, to be held in the spring toward the end of the academic year, with the date to be determined soon so it is on everyone's calendar.

New Business:

- Meetings will be held at 6:30 pm on the following dates:
 - Monday, October 7, 2013 (Hospitality House)
 - Monday, November 4, 2013 (C+CC Lounge)
 - Monday, December 2, 2013 (C+CC Lounge)
- Photos of new members and returning members who desire new photos will be taken at the next meeting.
- Amendment to By-Laws (R. Thayer): The Council approved an amendment to the By-Laws that includes the Deacon as an ex-officio member of the Pastoral Council and recognizes that the role of pastor may be filled by a diocesan-appointed leader at some future date.
- Foundation news (F. Hyde): The Foundation is engaged in a Social Change Initiative, which includes a contest aimed at juniors and seniors in high school and first and second year college students combining social change and entrepreneurship. Participants will run a business with a social conscience.

The meeting concluded with prayer by Mrs. Hyde.

Submitted By: Robert Thayer