

November 2013 PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
(11/4/2013, 6:30-7:30 PM, C+CC Lounge)

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

Fr. Kacerguis opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes and Chair report (F. Gallo):

- October 2013 minutes approved with no revisions.
- Pictures of new members and new pictures of returning members who want them will be taken tonight; pictures will be printed and posted in the hallway soon.
- The Council is still looking for a Vice Chair.

Pastor's Report (Fr. Kacerguis):

- The Newman Fellowship was commended for hosting a successful Alumni Weekend brunch in the lounge.
- Family weekend was October 16-18. The Brennan family hosted a wine and cheese reception after the Saturday evening Mass and the Knights of Columbus and Tammy Sanders hosted a coffee hour after the 10:30 Sunday Mass. All involved are commended on a job well done.
- The Coffee Hour signup sheet will be posted soon. Empty slots need to be filled.
- October 31-November 1: Halloween and All Saints Day celebration. Knights of Columbus and Newman Fellowship did magnificent job with setup and cleanup. About 70 people attended Mass at midnight. Other campus ministries notice the success of this program.
- Thanksgiving (November 28): The traditional Wednesday Thanksgiving Mass followed by soup and salad celebration will be held. There is a signup sheet for students interested in celebrating the holiday with a local family. Please let Fr. Kacerguis know if there is anyone who is too shy to sign up.
- Christmas is right around the corner. The Advent Blue Books will be available.
- The Newman Foundation Board revised and accepted its budget at the recent meeting. The Sun & Balance Award was presented to Rick Gallo and to Mike McCabe at the Committee of 100 Dinner. Fr. Kevin Mullen, President of Siena College was featured speaker.
- The Diocesan Peace and Justice Commission will be holding its annual holiday sale in the C+CC lobby in a couple of weeks.
- The Soup Kitchen is looking for volunteers from 4-6 pm one Thursday per month. Anyone interested should contact Lauren Kulkulka. Volunteers are especially needed the last Thursday of the month. Parishioners often bring desserts, which are very popular with the clients.
- Jean Francois will have family information and signups for Price Chopper cards and Christmas baskets. Student groups (fraternities/sororities, residence halls, etc.) are encouraged to participate.
- Dn. Romand's presence in the community has been working out well and his role will be expanding after Christmas. For some parishioners, this is the first experience with a permanent deacon.
- Bishop Hubbard sent his resignation to the Apostolic Nuncio in Washington, DC, on Thursday (October 31) as required. Nobody knows what will happen next, nor when.
- Challenges have arisen in the sealing of the building, as the color and texture of the building changes depending on how the sealant is applied (spray vs. roller). Starting next week, the patio bricks will be picked up, new polymer sand will be applied under the brick which will act as a sealant, and the bricks will be relaid with broken bricks replaced. Two damaged sidewalk squares will also be pulled up and replaced. Remediation to the north side of the property is necessary due to water issues. Additional, more expensive work may be necessary if the current efforts are unsuccessful. Water issues on the south side of the property will also be taken care of.
- The Newman Fellowship and Knights of Columbus are requested to take pictures at their activities and share them on Facebook, the C+CC website, and at events so that others can see what is going on.

Newman Fellowship Report (K. Flynn):

- Thursday meetings have been going well. Topics related to this semester's theme of Catholic Character have included the Gospel Writers, the Old Testament, and Pope Francis.

- The Newman Fellowship went apple picking over the Columbus Day weekend at Christy's Farm in Schodack and used the apples to make 69 pies, all of which were sold over Family Weekend. Council members praised the quality and presentation of the pies.
- Dinners have been very well attended. Food is now served family style and an extra table has been added.
- Service activities are being planned, including participation in the Christmas basket program. On November 23, members will participate in the St. Jude's walk at Crossgates mall.
- The Fellowship participated in the Halloween program, helping with setup and cleanup.
- Planning is underway for officer selection. Business meetings have been opened to general members who are interested.
- The Spring Retreat is planned for February 21-23 at Mellos Retreat Center, Jacksonville, VT.

Knights of Columbus Report (F. Gallo for F. Ortiz):

- The Catholicism series has ended, and the Knights are looking for ideas for a similar program in the Spring.
- A First Degree Initiation was held on October 8 for 4 candidates.
- A Habitat for Humanity building event was held on October 12 from 8 am until 4 pm. Eleven brothers participated and impressed the organization with their willingness to help.
- On October 28, 3 brothers participated in a Second Degree Ceremony in Latham.
- The biweekly Rosary has had strong turnout. The Knights are looking for parishioners to join them.
- The Knights are making arrangements to serve dinner at Joseph's House on a date to be announced.
- A Third Degree Ceremony is planned for November 10.
- The cleaning of the lightbulbs at St. Augustine's is planned for November 16, although there are concerns about safety and liability to be resolved.

Vice-Chair Report:

- No Report.

Secretary Report:

- No Report.

Old Business:

- Parish fundraiser (F. Gallo): Mr. Gallo has volunteered to help Paul Kraus plan the event, recognizing that time is growing short to plan a successful event. More information should be forthcoming soon.
- The Obituary/Important News email list (F. Gallo): The list is being worked on.
- Foundation Social Change Initiative (F. Hyde): Information was sent to the Knights of Columbus, Newman Fellowship, and Pastoral Council to be disseminated. Returns are awaited.
- St. James School Fundraiser (W. Webster): A large ornament has been designed to advertise the event, which is planned for December 7-8. The event will also be announced at Mass and in the bulletin. The group is now looking at prices for ornaments (mostly in the \$3.50 to \$12 range, depending on the ornament). Help from the Knights of Columbus and Newman Fellowship is being sought for conducting the sale; a meeting needs to be held to organize logistics.

New Business:

- Further discussion of the Soup Kitchen was postponed until the December meeting.

The meeting concluded with prayer by Dn. Romand.

Submitted By: Robert Thayer