

April 2014 PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES  
(4/21/2014, 6:30-7:30 PM, C+CC Lounge)

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

Fr. Kacerguis opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes and Chair report (F. Gallo):

- March 2014 minutes approved as submitted.
- Mr. Gallo will be attending the April Meeting of the Rensselaer Newman Foundation this week. He has submitted a report and will be making a five-minute presentation describing what the Council has done over the past year, focusing on the sale of Christmas ornaments and the soup kitchen.
- Mr. Gallo submitted a spreadsheet to the Council listing the tenures of the current members to aid in discerning new members.

Pastor's Report (Fr. Kacerguis):

- The Lenten Speakers Series went well in spite of inclement weather on two evenings. People from outside the parish were impressed and other priests found the program inspirational. Work has begun on next year's program, and suggestions for speakers are welcome by May 15, with a goal of delivering flyers to the printer by mid-June for distribution to the diocese in September. Fr. Kacerguis requested the dates for next year's labyrinth from the Newman Fellowship for the flyers, as well as any other flyers that should be printed, noting that events in the C+CC are booked 18 months in advance, and art exhibits are booked 2 years in advance.
- Holy Week went extraordinarily well, and everyone involved should be complimented. Positive comments were received from outsiders. Easter was spectacular. Fr. Kacerguis recommended that students who have not already been baptized or confirmed consider participating in RCIA, as more parishes are requiring confirmation before marriage or serving as a baptism sponsor.
- Thursday is the Rensselaer Newman Foundation meeting and appreciation dinner.

Newman Fellowship Report (G. Simila):

- The Newman Fellowship hosted the labyrinth, which also served as a meeting topic. Turnout was good on Thursday, but no one came on Saturday.
- About 5-10 Fellowship members attended Br. Mickey McGrath's Lenten Wednesday presentation in lieu of a regular meeting.
- Bread baking went well, bringing in about \$350.
- The April 10 meeting attendance was smaller due to GM Week; the Fellowship played Catholic jeopardy.
- About 3 members helped at Holy Thursday.
- There are 2 meetings remaining in the semester. The Knights of Columbus will be leading this week's meeting.
- The Fellowship will be participating in the Relay for Life this weekend. They have raised \$2,040 so far, with 27 members participating, an increase of about 10 from last year. They are planning a photo booth fundraiser at the event.
- Remaining dinners will include the Senior sendoff and the end-of-year barbecue on May 11 in the lounge.
- Three members helped at the soup kitchen for Easter dinner. Members also delivered an Easter lily to a parishioner.
- Next year's retreat is booked at St. Mary's on the Lake. Emily Farella and Ms. Simila will be leading.
- There will be a root beer social to welcome incoming students at Student Orientation on the Saturday before classes start.

Knights of Columbus Report (F. Ortiz):

- The Knights volunteered at Catholic Charities' Luanga Center for Men in Troy. They also put together Easter baskets of male hygiene products for Joseph's House.
- The Knights will be leading the Newman Fellowship meeting on Thursday with a discussion of the history of the Knights and natural proofs of God. They will also be cooking at Sunday's Newman Fellowship dinner.

- On May 9 the Knights will host a Holy Hour for finals from 7-9 pm. This will be open to the entire parish.

Vice-Chair Report (J. Brennan):

- The Sun & Balance was impressive. The committee worked hard to produce it.

Secretary Report:

- No Report.

Old Business:

- Parish fundraiser (P. Kraus): Mr. Kraus and Mr. Gallo met about 2 months ago to brainstorm. They noted that the event needs to be both a fundraiser and a social event, in the spirit of the Big Band party. Mr. Ortiz, Ms. Flynn, and Tom Mattern also met to brainstorm and generated two ideas: a carnival-themed event on the south lawn with a dunk tank, performances by the campus a capella groups, games of chance, and a chocolate chip cookie contest involving local bakeries and parishioners, to be held early in the fall; and a Fall Festival featuring the Rensselaer Music Association and other musicians, an art sale featuring local artists who display in the C+CC, and horse-drawn hay rides around campus, to be held later in the fall. Dates are being selected to optimize opportunities for student participation.
- Parish email list (Fr. Kacerguis): This is still being worked on with a goal of being completed over the summer.
- New members for the Council (F. Gallo): Council members were asked to review the spreadsheet distributed by Mr. Gallo, who also noted that student members will be needed for next year.
- Soup kitchen (J. Francois): The Easter dinner was well attended, with hams donated by Hannaford, rolls donated by Bella Napoli, desserts donated by parishioners and another team, and monetary donations covering other expenses with money left over to be used for future soup kitchen days. Two hams and other side dishes were left over and were distributed to Joseph's House and to volunteers.
- Toiletry item collection (W. Webster): Items will be collected in May; we are awaiting a call from Catholic Charities.

New Business:

- Picnic (J. Francois): Ideas are being formulated and collected for the parish picnic at the beginning of the academic year. One idea is to have teams of two participate in a series of Amazing Race-style events, which can accommodate more participants than last year's activity. Ideas are being sought for activities for participants.

The meeting concluded with prayer by Dn. Romand.

Submitted By: Robert Thayer