

JANUARY 2008 PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

(1/16/08; 6:00-6:45 PM, C+CC Lounge)

<u>Present:</u>	Jim Brennan, Ann Brinnitzer, Harry Cooke, Wilson Crone, Lori Fowler (Chair), Brandon Graver, Joe Grimaldi, Fran Hyde; Fr. Ed Kacerguis (Pastor), Mary Jo Sorrentino, Marie Venaglia (Chaplain)
<u>Not Present:</u>	Lisa Muscanell, Brenda Williams
<u>Others Present</u>	Bill Webster

The meeting began with prayer led by Ms. Brinnitzer.

Chair Report:

- Approval of 12/5/07 minutes as amended. Mr. Crone will forward to Jill Wishon, C+CC director, for posting on web site.
- Read email from Ms. Muscanell regarding resignation from Pastoral Council because of spring semester schedule. As she held an at-large slot, Pastoral Council members were reminded to recruit prospective candidates for this and other openings that will occur by the end of the Pastoral Council year. The possibility of a recruitment subcommittee was suggested.
- Ms. Fowler attended the Diocesan pastoral planning meeting on 1/9/08 and indicated the enormity of the task before them. Deacon Frank Burn (Scotia) is facilitating the discussions. One emphasis is that all churches in the Albany Diocese will be impacted, as there will be no stand-alone parishes following implementation of pastoral planning.

Pastor's Report:

- As follow up to the Chair's report, Fr. Kacerguis highlighted aspects of the Albany Diocese pastoral planning process, based on guidelines derived by the Diocese from those used in the Archdiocese of Boston. Data for the process in Albany have been derived from CARA, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (<http://cara.georgetown.edu/>).
- In conjunction with the churches in a cluster, the pastoral planning committee will decide what future pattern the cluster will take, e.g., which worship spaces may be combined or closed. An initial criterion for this initial step is whether the sum of current weekend Mass attendance would fill the worship space, a criterion that Christ Sun of Justice meets. Other factors in favor of the C+CC are its accessibility and its dual role as community parish and campus ministry. A meeting on 1/19/08 will address this level of decision making for the cluster. Issues such as faith formation and Mass schedules within a cluster will then derive from that conclusion. Ultimately, detailed plans from a cluster will be submitted to a Diocesan committee for review, sent back to the cluster for refinement if necessary, and then sent to Bishop Hubbard for final approval.
- In response to Mr. Webster's request regarding additional advertising and outreach, Fr. Kacerguis listed several examples of the expense of local news media, including Yellow Pages, the *Times-Union*, the *Record*, or *Metroland*. Encouraging friends to attend non-religious events held at the C+CC could be initial means of expanding awareness of the facility and of the parish.
- Other informational items:
 - Advent and Christmas went well, especially with the addition of the new Advent wreath (donation from Pat Dunn).
 - Early January meeting with the Rensselaer Newman Foundation indicated that the budget is on track so far.
 - Mardi Gras, Ash Wednesday, and Lent are upcoming (Tuesday, 2/5/08 and beyond).
 - Pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs) sessions on Saturday after Ash Wednesday (2/9/08).

- Speakers for the Lenten Wednesdays may include an icon painter, Times Union religious blogger, medical ethicist, and a Methodist minister who revitalized a downtown church.
- Pre-Cana session 3/1/08.

Chaplain's Report:

- Activities and meetings attended since last Pastoral Council Meeting included the following:
 - Liturgies of the Christmas season
 - Additional meetings for Diocesan pastoral planning
 - Planning for upcoming Lenten/Easter season
- GIFT upcoming sessions:
 - February 3 session: "I believe in Jesus Christ, dead and buried"
 - March 2 session: Trinity
 - April 6 session: Church
- Book Group activities:
 - Completion of *Our Town* (Thornton Wilder)
 - Will start *After This* (Alice McDermott)

Knights of Columbus Report (J. Grimaldi)

- No meetings yet this month, as the spring semester has just started.
- Baskets and supplies successfully delivered to Emmaus House.
- Upcoming reunion with past members scheduled for 2/2/08 (to coincide with the Big Red Freakout).
- Jill Wishon, C+CC Director, will be in contact with the K of C regarding their involvement in Lenten Wednesday preparations.

Newman Fellowship Report (M. J. Sorrentino):

- No meetings yet this month, as the spring semester has just started.
- Upcoming retreat (@ Hospitality House) 1/18/08-1/20/08 will be a time to elect new officers.

Parish Life Committee (J. Brennan):

- 1/21/08: Ladies' Candlelight dinner, with ~ 30 signed up, and more expected to attend. If photos are taken and submitted, the *Evangelist* has expressed an interest in posting an article following the event.

The meeting concluded with prayer led by Ms. Brinnitzer.

Submitted By: Wilson Crone