

SEPTEMBER 2009 PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

(9/9/09, 6:00-6:45 PM, C+CC Lounge)

<u>Present:</u>	Matt Callaghan, Harry Cooke, Wilson Crone, Jacqueline Fable, Fran Hyde, Paul Kraus, Fr. Edward Kacerguis (Pastor), Marianne Monastero, Brenda Williams (Chair) Christian Schenkelberg (Knights of Columbus for Mr. Grimaldi)
<u>Excused</u>	David Dziewulski, Joseph Grimaldi, Kelly Rigby

Chair Report (B. Williams):

- Roll call and welcome of new members.
- Brief review of flu protocol; on the C+CC web site (<http://www.chapelandculturalcenter.org/>), the lower right box includes Bishops' statement and RPI material regarding flu as well.
- Summer was quiet without students, although many students were present for the going-away event for the former Chaplain, Marie Venaglia. The recent welcoming picnic (9/6/09) was a success.
- Approval of April 22, 2009 minutes with minor corrections. Mr. Crone will incorporate the changes and send them to Jill Wishon for posting on the C+ CC web site.

Pastor's Report (Fr. Kacerguis):

- Alternative approaches to staffing were examined with the resignation of the chaplain. Until April 2009, finances were in order at the Chapel, but subsequently, several lines of funding, particularly alumni donations, dropped off. Comparatively speaking, the Rensselaer Newman Foundation endowment did well in the crisis (a maximum of 25% drop). While a draw from the endowment helps to balance the annual budget, there is strong reluctance to take money from the principal.
- As the "Called to Be Church" process is implemented, remaining parishes will continue to will do some strategic planning over next 6-9 months, given the on-going scarcity of priests.
- As part of that planning, and sensitivity to the current budget, the Foundation has been fortunate to hire Sr. Clarisse Correia, DC, Chair of Board of Seton Health Care, to direct the Generations of Faith program. Students impressed her at the 5 pm Mass and welcome picnic on 9/6/09. Sr. Clarice will be the speaker at the Committee of 100 dinner on 10/16/09 (honoring the Brennan family with the Sun and Balance Award).
- Both the Rensselaer Newman Foundation and Knights of Columbus contributed greatly to the picnic. They will also team up for Parent's Weekend on 10/25/09.
- As a final note regarding the picnic, the Siena-based band under Fr. Dennis Tamburello (<http://www.siena.edu/pages/1292.asp>) was impressed by the student turnout as well.
- In planning for the fall, flyers were produced over the summer. While these have been typically distributed by campus mail, for some areas, e.g., the RAHP apartments near the Field House, may need distribution by hand. Flyers for Chapel Thanksgiving and Christmas events will be distributed at Family Weekend starting 10/23/09.
- On 10/3/09, RPI will have a home coming at the new East Village. On Sunday 10/4/09, the Pastoral Council will host a special coffee hour after the 10:30 Mass. The Cronos will coordinate.
- Project for the fall. Jean Francoise of the Social Concerns committee will be spearheading an effort for "Shoes for the Shoeless" where Delmar Bootery will pick up collected, wearable shoes, and then sent out them to Appalachia in conjunction with Lion's Club. There is a national goal of 100,000 pairs of wearable shoes.
- Fr. Kacerguis is Campus Ministry head for the Diocese. As part of that effort, and in a follow up the parish consolidation process of "Called to Be Church", the following themes will be brought up in Lent: 2010: Reconciliation; 2011: Eucharist; 2012 Life in the Spirit.
- Lenten series at the Chapel for March 2010 has already organized, as speakers may need a year of advance planning.

- Theme: Spirituality in the 21st century.
 - Kathy Coffey (St. Anthony Messenger Press, <http://www.americancatholic.org/>). Spirituality styles.
 - Br. Michael McGrath (iconographer, <http://www.beestill.org/>), many of the graphics for Coffey's books. Creativity.
 - Noah Sheets (Head Chef at the Executive Mansion, Albany, <http://www.chronogram.com/issue/2009/8/Community+Pages/The-Urban-Gem-in-the-Country-Crown?page=5>). Spirituality and health; local food.
 - Br. James Zulo (<http://www.dom.edu/academics/slcs/programs/mlfm/mlfmfaculty.html>). Spirituality and sexuality.
 - Fr. Michael Guinan (<http://www.gtu.edu/academics/faculty-directory/d-f/guinan-michael>). Spirituality and prayer.
- Mary Beth Grabowsky will be speaking about the importance of student membership in two weeks at Mass. Among other considerations, students will want to make sure that all sacraments are in place, e.g., Confirmation, in preparation for future considerations, e.g., marriage, baptism sponsorship.

Knights of Columbus Report (C. Schenkelberg):

- Knights involvement with 9/3/09 RPI activities fair and 9/6/09 welcome picnic; four new recruits from those events.
- Web site has been updated (<http://koc.union.rpi.edu/index.htm>).

Newman Fellowship Report (M. Monastero):

- To date, mostly has been planning, with involvement in the activities fair and welcome picnic.
- Alpha Omega picnic with other Christian groups at RPI
- First meeting 9/10/09, first Sunday dinner on 9/13/09.
- Fall retreat planned for October, along with 10/25/09 coffee hour (with Knights of Columbus).
- Pie baking fund raiser coming up again this fall as well.

Parish Life Committee:

- Will need to fill position, as J. Brennan has retired from the chair position.

New Business:

- Will keep planned April 14, 2010 date, as student representatives indicated their availability during GM Week.

The meeting concluded with prayer.

Submitted By: Wilson Crone