

Christ Sun of Justice Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes January 21, 2020, 6:30pm

Present: Joe Romand (Deacon & Interim Parish Administrative Coordinator), Fr. John Cronin (Interim Priest), MaryAnn Carey, Fran Hyde, Grace Reale, Christine Relyea, Rogerio Rodrigues, Bill Stewart, Joel Lemus (Knights of Columbus), Andy Bouffard (Newman Fellowship)

Minutes: The minutes from the Oct. 2019 meeting were approved.

Interim Priest's Report (Fr. John Cronin):

Changes in the mass schedule were discussed at the recent liturgy meeting. This has been a topic for many years and would be done in order to 1.) create a cohesive community 2.) be proactive given the likelihood that we may have a sacramental minister with limited availability, and 3) make it easier to find a priest to fill in when needed. Over many years the 9am mass has not been as well attended; recent 16-19 week average was 11 students and 44 others, whereas the 10:30 mass averaged 21 students and 82 others. Fr. John has asked for opinions on this possible change to eliminate 9am and 10:30 and keep a 10 am. Joel thinks 10:30 might be best for sleepy students but definitely keep 5:00 Sunday. At this weekend's Masses we will informally survey attendees by show of hands regarding the proposed changes and also invite comments to Fr. John or Deacon Joe after Mass. In future we can consider a possible pilot of a later Sunday evening mass aimed at students.

Parish Administrators Report (Deacon Joe Romand):

Joe discussed the reality of CSJ not having a pastor in the future. There are 52 (and the number is growing) parishes in the diocese that currently don't have a pastor that are being covered by sacramental ministers/interim priests. There have been ongoing meetings with RPI, the foundation and the diocese, most recently focused on hiring a Catholic chaplain. Many signs point to our linkage with OLV. We should embrace this! (church is about community, not the actual buildings) and begin to plan for more interaction between the two communities. Possible idea is to have OLV's Fr. Sam switch with Fr. John for a weekend to introduce each of them to each community.

Joe is finalizing the Parish Profile for the diocese. It will be used to make more permanent decisions, such as assigning a sacramental minister/priest/deacon/parish life coordinator. It is a confidential document however Joe shared that recognizing CSJ history and its current status, he supports the idea that the Newman Foundation and parish continue to collaborate but operate on a more separate basis.

Joe has plans to relocate to Florida after his house is sold, most likely after the Easter season. He has been in contact with the pastoral planning office of the diocese about this and hopes for a prompt decision on a possible deacon and administrator to succeed him; this might end up being 2 different people.

Christ Sun of Justice Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2020, 6:30pm

Newman Foundation Report (Fran Hyde):

The Foundation is discussing the possible separation of parish and foundation and is in dialog with the diocese. All is well financially as donations continue.

Newman Fellowship (Andy Bouffard):

Membership continues to be 8-10 students. One meeting held this semester and new officers were elected. They were ambitious last semester with a list of activities and service and they plan to accomplish them this semester. They helped the Knights with designing and planning the adoration service and met a few new students there. Their goal is increased membership and service projects. If there is a plan to hold another adoration service, Fr. John is willing to help. Fran recommended they boost student attendance at the Lenten speaker series, taking advantage of resources already provided by others: people attending Mass, a potluck dinner, and a speaker. They plan to reserve a table outside of Sage dining hall in the near future; Fran has cookies for this. The small group from Sage continues to attend some of the social events. Feb 21-23 is an Emmaus retreat at the Dominican retreat center. They will announce this in the bulletin and at mass to increase student attendance. RNF will fund registrations associated with this retreat.

Knights Report (Joel Lemus):

Joel has taken on the position of Grand Knight. They continue to hold theology nights, lead the rosary weekly instead of biweekly (It was recommended to invite the parish to this – announce in bulletin), have dinners every other Sat. evening, game nights, and movie nights. Joel is looking into a paintball activity for the Knights. He will be getting paperwork with the statewide council in order to move the group forward and plan to hold official induction ceremonies. The RPI Council has in the past had second-degree ceremonies at Latham and third degree ceremonies at OLV, which also can be reinstated. Fr. John (also a Knight) is willing to help by being the assigned Chaplain for the chapter or helping out as needed. It was recommended that the Knights connect with other nearby Knight groups, possibly OLV's group. Also reiterated the possibility of having Patrick DeVaney, an acquaintance of Tom Reale as a potential speaker about the El Camino.

Old Business:

- The Craft Sale to benefit St. James School generated \$700+ and was recently wired to them.
- MaryAnn spoke about the soup kitchen's Christmas dinner success that served around 80 people along with distribution of hats, gloves, socks, scarves, and gift basket prizes. She mentioned that more help for these monthly dinners would be appreciated especially for the Easter Dinner on Apr. 2 at 4:30. This need will be put in the bulletin and the Knights and Newman group plan to attend.
- Donations from parishioners of over \$2000 in Price Chopper gift cards were presented to Unity House and they are very grateful for these!

Christ Sun of Justice Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2020, 6:30pm

New Business:

- Patrick Quinn (parishioner and former RPI Dean of Architecture) was architect for the C+CC addition. We should take the opportunity to recognize him with a plaque/sign next to the plaque recognizing the main C+CC architect. A resolution can be written from the council to be recommended to the Newman Foundation board at their April meeting. Someone will work with the Quinn's to develop the history surrounding the addition and other information for a formal resolution.
- Bulletin design: Joe recently shared an America Magazine article that contains simple solutions that may help make our bulletin easier to read. He believes a committee should be developed to look into how other parishes create their bulletins: how they are funded, how much time is needed, what software is used, who prints them? Kevin and an RPI student are also doing research in this area. Efforts in this regard should be coordinated.
- Lenten speakers and dates are set. Kevin is working on announcing these and finding someone to possibly lead the Pysanky Egg Workshop.
- Our next meetings will be Feb. 18, Mar. 24, and April 28 at 6:30 in the Hospitality House.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Submitted by: Christine Relyea