

University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice
Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 2003

Present: Vivien McNaughton, Rosanne Rose, Bill Webster, Fr. Ed Kacerguis, Robin Chin, Janina Hill

Absent: Leah Smith, Andrew Hill, Margaret Leathem, Rendell Torres, Martha Walsh, Sue Gutmann

Faith Formation:

Rosanne led those present in a reflection on water as symbol. She challenged the group to reflect on that we have been swimming in our religion all our lives but we haven't gotten wet. The challenge for us and for our parish is how do we get wet?

Pastor's Report:

Church Issues –

- The Diocese is mandating that all Parish staff and volunteers over 16 years of age attend the Virtus Program. As Fr. Ed becomes aware of the schedule for the Troy area, he will share it with us.
- During the month of October, we have been asked to keep a tally for the number attending each Mass on Sunday.
- Because of the shortage of priests, (the diocese is basing their strategic planning on what parishes will remain open and what parishes will close on seven assumptions. They are:
 1. The Eucharist is at the heart and center of parish life
 2. The parish community is the center of the Church's life
 3. Shared Responsibility is the foundation to advance the mission and ministry of Jesus
 4. Vital and viable parishes/communities should be maintained and supported
 5. Jesus Christ will be proclaimed throughout the diocese of Albany
 6. Justice will be the guiding principle in decision making with a special concern for the poor
 7. People will be pastured by well-formed and qualified leaders
- A large gap in Troy was left by the death of Fr. Harry Dinanike's.
- Priest personnel issues will be addressed at the biannual convocation for Priests in October.

- Fr. Jim Dolan has offered to celebrate one liturgy every weekend. This will ease some of the burden on Fr. Ed. It's very difficult to preside at four liturgies over two days.
- This summer's ministry seemed to be dominated by funerals.

Financial Issues –

- Bishop's Appeal - \$27,000 was donated by our parish this year. This was proportionately ahead of last years donations.
- Fr. Ed. will be writing letters regarding the Capital Campaign.

RCIA –

- Fr. Ed. mentioned that Rosanne is developing a plan for RCIA for the parish. He felt that this plan has the potential for being a model. He encouraged those present to invite anyone who might be interested to participate.

Goals for the Year -

- Get chairs for the Liturgy Committee and the Hospitality Committee and get the committees operational.
- Social Concerns Committee. There is the possibility for twinning with another parish in South Africa. They only have a Sunday Mass but the church is being opened two to three hours a day for use as a House of Prayer. It is hoped that this will help to revitalize the downtown area. When asked what they need from us they responded that they need prayer and money. There is also an outreach ministry for AIDS and kids.
- Beefing up the food collection. We have had some real requests from downtown.
- Evangelization through the RCIA.

Other –

- Rubin Dialysis is putting on an addition. Their engineers and ours are in dialogue to ensure that it is done properly.
- The Welcome Picnic was very successful. Much thanks were given to Bill Webster.

Marketing:

Taking ads out in the Poly was discussed. Their effectiveness was questioned. We have to change our model of thinking. We have to reach out to the students one by one.

Some of the approaches used by other Campus Christian groups was discussed. For example, the Rensselaer Christian Association (RCA) helps people move in dorms, do laundry etc. but they have many members.

It was suggested that the Pastoral Council sit down with Janina and other students to help understand what student life is like today (sociological, cultural, and anthropological). Rosanne was asked to set up the meeting.

It was hoped that we could find a way to generate more student ownership and participation.

Faith Formation:

Fr. Ed will be teaching a course this fall. Five sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings. The course is entitled “**2003, CATHOLIC AND CHRISTIAN – YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING.**”

ByLaws:

Bill presented the updates to the bylaws. It was felt that these should be discussed at the next meeting when more council members will be present. No one present saw any problem with the revisions.

Annual Report:

Vivien created a summary of the report that Rosanne had drafted. Everyone liked it and thanked Vivien. It will be presented at the Newman Foundation Meeting.

Parish Convening:

Robin and Janina were given assignments to go to the Parish convening and take the following workshops:

- I was a Stranger
- How do I make a difference
- How to build a team

Next Meeting:

Next meeting we will be setting goals for next year. Everyone was asked to consider this issue and come up with suggestions.

