

University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice
Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday, 3 November 2004

Present: Rosanne Rose, Andrew Hill, Bill Webster, Fr. Ed Kacerguis, Marie Venaglia, Sue Gutmann, Mark Meehan, Leah Smith, Rebecca Lamb, Robin Chin

Absent: Rendell Torres, Matthew Cusack

Faith Formation and Prayer:

The meeting was opened with Evening Prayer.

Sue Gutmann reviewed the first chapter of *What Makes Us Catholic* by Thomas H. Groome. This is the basis for the 2004-5 RCIA course, and will also be the focus of the Formation portion of the Council meetings.

Brainstorming Session:

The Council broke into several working groups, and evaluated the various ideas generated by the October brainstorming session for four factors: (1) Time and effort required to implement, (2) Financial implications, (3) Other resource requirements, and (4) Anticipated impact. Numerical scores were assigned following a "less is better" formula. Andrew is compiling the results and will present them at the December meeting.

Pastor's Report:

- John Allen, a reporter with a special interest in the Vatican, will speak on Thursday, 11 November at Our Lady of Victory. This event is being jointly sponsored by our cluster: Our Lady of Victory, St. Bonaventure, and Christ Sun of Justice.
- The Rensselaer Newman Foundation Board of Directors met on Friday, 29 October. One significant action is the creation of a Planning and Development Committee.
- The Newman Fellowship and Knights of Columbus are to be commended for their recent contributions to parish hospitality: a coffee hour on RPI's Family Weekend, and a coffee hour to welcome Marie.
- A teaching Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, 15 December, to promote a better understanding of the ritual. All are welcome.
- On Monday, 8 November, Diane Waters will join our office staff at the RPI Union.

Chair's Report:

Rosanne provided further details on the meeting of the Newman Foundation Board of Directors, especially the Planning Committee being formed. It will coordinate existing committees; consider long range issues e.g. the possibility of eventually having a Spiritual Life Director rather than a resident priest; and explore ethical questions of life, science and art at RPI.

Committee Reports:

Liturgy Committee (Robin):

- Our Thanksgiving Liturgy will be celebrated Wednesday evening, 24 November, at 6:15 pm. Mass will be followed by a simple meal of soups, salads, breads and desserts. Participants will be asked to bring a can of non-perishable food for the needy.
- More emphasis should be given to the Ministry of Greeting.
- Additional training is being planned for Lectors
- Eucharistic Ministers (Ministers of the Cup) need to make better use of the purificator.

Social Action Committee (Rosanne):

- Katrin St. John is now Chair of the Social Action Committee.
- Mary Lou LeForestier will organize the annual Christmas Basket effort.
- Carolyn Wales will continue the collection of hats and mittens for needy children of Troy.
- There will be a sale of crafts by "The Work of Human Hands" after all Masses on the weekend of 18-19 December.

Hospitality (Rosanne):

- Matt Cusack and Mark Meehan will jointly chair the Hospitality Committee
- The first meeting of the committee will be Wednesday, 18 November.

Faith Formation (Marie):

- There will be a meeting with the catechists on Sunday, 14 November.
- The Faith Formation program will follow the existing format this year. Input will be sought from parents regarding future program directions.
- The R.C.I.A. program will be held on Tuesday evenings. Details can be found in the bulletin.

Newman Catholic Fellowship (Rebecca):

- There will be a retreat for the officers of the Fellowship in the Spring.
- The Fellowship worked at the Food Bank on Saturday, 30 October.
- The Fellowship will be going to Joseph's House to cook lunch.
- There are several new freshman members who are taking an active role in Fellowship activities.

Change to the By-laws

Following a suggestion by Rebecca at the October meeting, the Council discussed making the Grand Knight of the RPI Knights of Columbus an ex-officio member of the Council. The idea was approved, provided it did not reduce the number of Council members chosen through the discernment process. The Council will, therefore, be increased to thirteen members.

Parish Convening

In order to limit the duration of the meeting, discussion of the Parish Convening was deferred to the December meeting of the Council.

Advent

- "Blue Books" have been ordered for the Advent season.
- Marie is preparing a "family pack" of ideas for the observance of Advent.