

University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice
Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday, 5 October, 2005

Present: Fr. Ed Kacerguis, Marie Venaglia, Rosanne Rose, Christopher Rainey,
Bill Webster, Ann Brinnitzer, Heather Scoffone, Brandon Graver,
Lori Fowler

Absent: Sue Gutmann, John Goslin, Mark Meehan, Matthew Cusack

Guest: Bill McLoughlin

Faith Formation and prayer:

Marie led the Council in Evening Prayer.

Minutes:

The minutes of the September 7, 2005 meeting were reviewed, corrected and approved.

Pastor's Report:

- ! Marie has initiated the new faith formation program, GIFT, with a very successful meeting focused on the Saints. Two essential ideas: 1) This is the future of faith formation; the old model is gone. 2.) Sacramental preparation is a separate, additional element in our education program.
- ! There was an unfortunate data base error in the fall mailing of the Sun & Balance to our Catholic alumni. Postcards were promptly sent to explain the error.
- ! Next weekend is Parents' Weekend on campus. There will be a wine and cheese reception on Saturday evening, and a coffee hour on Sunday.
- ! Our celebration of Thanksgiving will be the same as last year: Mass on Wednesday evening, followed by a simple dinner of soups, salads, breads and dessert. Participants are asked to bring a can of food for the less fortunate.
- ! The Rensselaer Newman Foundation Board will hold its annual meeting on Friday 21 October.

Chaplain's Report:

- ! Marie has had a busy schedule as Chaplain. Deanery meetings have addressed pastoral planning and the sharing of catechetical resources. There was an open house for Medalists on 9 October. Another open house will be held on 22 October for new and transfer students in 2006.

Chair's Report:

- ! There will be an effort to organize students who remain on campus for Thanksgiving to assist with the Equinox dinner in Albany. There will be a notice in the bulletin next week.

Committee and Organization Reports:

Faith Formation Committee (Marie)

The first GIFT meeting was held on Sunday, 2 October. Fifty-five parishioners have registered for the program. The theme for this month was "All Saints." It was an excellent event. The prayers composed by the children are great. Reviews of the gathering will be in upcoming Sunday bulletins to help encourage additional participation. This information will also be on the website.

Liturgy (Rosanne)

Work on the observation of Holy Week and the Easter Vigil is continuing.

Social Action (Marie)

The committee met on 4 October. Discussions included: caring committee, monthly food collection, and donations to Joseph House. Katrin is looking for new Christmas basket coordinators. The next meeting will be on 1 November following evening Mass.

Newman Catholic Fellowship (Heather)

The year is off to an excellent start. There were 14 participants, including some new members, at the Pyramid Lake retreat. Twenty five students came to dinner last Sunday evening.

Two recent races yielded over \$250 in pledges for charity.

SUNY Albany Newman Club has been invited to Sunday dinner.

We will be picking apples and baking pies and apple crisp for sale on Parents' weekend.

Newman will host a large meeting of the RPI Joint Christian Group at the C+CC on 28 January. The event will feature food, music and more.

Other Business:

Discussion of the parish survey conducted in last spring continued.

- ! Comments on parish liturgy have been forwarded to the Liturgy Committee
- ! Ideas for adult education have been forwarded to Marie. There appears to be a significant preference for evening meetings
- ! The parish appears to be split nearly 50/50 on the question of a parish directory
- ! Young adults are looking for activities. This need will be addressed by the new

Parish Life Committee.

Coffee hours:

The frequency and timing of coffee hours was discussed. It was noted that the 9:00 Sunday Mass almost never has a coffee hour. This is due in part to conflict with the following 10:30 Mass, and to the limited parking available near the Chapel. There was no conclusion. Further thought and discussion is required.

St. James School Project:

Chris Rainey is taking a philosophy course from Professor Puka. The class is going to undertake an action project, maybe two. Chris has suggested the St. James School. He has volunteered to coordinate the effort over the next year, focusing on student involvement. Fr. Ed noted that approximately \$750 has recently been sent to the school.

Bylaws:

The Council adopted changes to the bylaws which would: abolish the Parish Administration Committee; replace the Hospitality Committee with a Parish Life Committee; and reduce the number of regularly scheduled meetings to nine - September through May.

Father Ed spoke about developments in the Cluster and Deanery. There are mixed feelings about the parish realignments which have occurred in the Diocese over the past couple of years. As a result, the Rensselaer County Deanery has called for parish narratives. Our parish has responded with a Parish Profile based upon reports routinely made to the Diocese, RPI and the Rensselaer Newman Foundation. Copies were distributed as a preparation for the next meeting at which the Council will view and discuss a portion of a message from Bishop Hubbard on the mission of the contemporary parish.