

University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice
Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday, 7 December, 2005

Present: Fr. Ed Kacerguis, Marie Venaglia, Rosanne Rose, Christopher Rainey,
Bill Webster, Ann Brinnitzer, Heather Scoffone, Brandon Graver,
Lori Fowler, John Goslin, Mark Meehan, Suzanne Gutmann

Absent: Matthew Cusack

Faith Formation and prayer:

Heather led the Council in Evening Prayer.

Minutes:

The minutes of the November 2 , 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Pastor's Report:

- The celebration of Thanksgiving on Wednesday evening worked well again this year.
- This year Christmas and New Year fall on Sunday. We will follow the regular Sunday Mass schedule. Flyers will be distributed on campus and the schedule will be in the bulletin.
- Pre-Cana class will be held on Saturday 18 February.
- A flyer will be coming out soon with the Lenten Series program.
- Due to funding difficulties at Unity House, the Christmas Basket program will not be conducted this year. We are working on a gift wish list as a substitute.
- A big "Thank you" to the Knights and friends for conducting the "Clothe a Child" appeal at a recent hockey game. Over three hundred dollars were collected.
- No pastor has been named for St. Bonaventure yet. No sacramental ministers are available and all the retired priests have assignments.
- The old computer in the Chaplain's office has been replaced. This will solve many communications problems.

Chaplain's and Faith Formation Report:

- I have finished the BAMOFF training process, thus my certification as Director of Faith Formation is complete.
- The GIFT program held its third session on 4 December. Sister Sean Peters, CSJ

gave a presentation to the “mature” members, while the children worked on crafts and cards for our shut-ins. Registration is now up to 71 participants. The next session will be in February.

- There was a symposium on the new national Directory for Catechesis on 6 December. Evangelization is seen as a critical need.
- Participated in the prayer service for World Aids day.

Discussion of the GIFT program

There have been questions regarding sacramental preparation. Sacramental preparation is separate from GIFT. Acceptance into preparation programs is based on readiness rather than specific age or grade in school. Participants must also be enrolled in GIFT. Candidates for Confirmation must be at least 16 years of age.

GIFT must prepare our parishioners to interact with non-Catholics, especially Fundamentalists, and non-Christians they encounter in every day life.

How can the GIFT program be reinforced? If additional resources are made available, will they be used? Unlike previous Faith Formation programs, GIFT is dynamic; it can adapt, and grow. This year the theme is the liturgical year. Next year there will be a different emphasis. Appropriate web sites are being considered as a source of additional information.

Chair's Report

- Focus for the spring will be the Parish Life Committee.
- We need to start thinking about new members of the Council. Both Bill and I will complete our terms in 2006.

Committee and Organization Reports:

Social Action (Marie)

The “Warm hands/Warm Hearts “ program is continuing. Caroline Wales will be coordinating.

Martha Walsh and Karen Campbell will coordinate the Christmas wish list effort for Unity House.

Newman Catholic Fellowship (Heather)

The Newman Fellowship t-shirts have arrived.

We assisted Joseph House in a very successful fund raising campaign.

Fellowship meetings are Thursday evenings.

Election of officers will be this week.

The annual retreat for the officers will be the first weekend after returning to school in January.

Knights of Columbus (John)

We collected for the “Clothe a Child” campaign.

Entertainment books will be sold again this year.

A fund raising dinner for Newman at Tulane, will be held next Sunday evening.

The schedule for the spring semester includes installation of officers, and we are considering an evening prayer hour.

Other Business:

Holy Days

The idea of making holy days celebrations by holding a wine and cheese reception after evening Mass has worked overall, but some fine tuning is now in order. What is the best time for Mass? Should the celebrations be limited to the school year?

St. James School

It is summer in South Africa, and the school is on summer break. Communications are slow.

The Parish

The Council viewed the remainder of a video of Bishop Hubbard speaking on “The Mission of the Contemporary Parish.” Fr. Ed asked Council members to write a brief (50 words or less) response to the Bishop’s message.