

NOVEMBER 2007 PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

(11/14/07; 6:05-7:10 PM, Hospitality House)

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| <u>Present:</u> | Jim Brennan, Ann Brinnitzer, Harry Cooke, Wilson Crone, Lori Fowler, Brandon Graver, Joe Grimaldi, Lisa Muscanell, Mary Jo Sorrentino, Marie Venaglia, Brenda Williams |
| <u>Not Present:</u> | Fran Hyde; Fr. Ed Kacerguis (discussed report with Lori Fowler) |

The meeting began with prayer led by Mr. Graver.

Chair Report:

- Approval of October 10, 2007, minutes as amended. Mr. Crone will forward to Jill Wishon, C+CC director, for posting on web site.
- Rensselaer Newman Foundation annual meeting on 10/26/07, with an emphasis on dialoguing with parish stakeholders., focusing on the interaction with RPI students.
- Council of 100 Dinner on 10/26/07, with Sr. Helen Scarry (<http://www1.georgetown.edu/omm/campusministry/30124.html>)
- Spider Saloff concert on 10/27/07 (<http://www.spiderjazz.com/>)
- Fr. Ed 25th Anniversary Celebration on 10/28/07

Pastor's Report (L. Fowler):

- Death of Charles Christian on 11/14/07; services to be determined (NB: wake and Funeral Mass were held on 11/19/07)
- Renovation status: difficulties with skylight replacement; temporarily filled in
- Mass schedule discussion:
 - Pastoral Council should prepare for extensive discussion during December 2007 meeting
 - Report from cluster to Bishop Hubbard due 2008
 - Realistically, there should be a near-future anticipation of two priests for the five-church cluster that includes C+CC, Sacred Heart, St. William's, St. Jude's, and St. Michael's. The Bishop is very reluctant to have Communion Services take the place of Masses, and would prefer that parishioners be directed to other churches in order to participate in a weekend Mass.
 - Unlike the other churches, which are Diocesan-owned, the Rensselaer Newman Foundation does own the building.
 - Ms. Venaglia suggested that the Council pray for the priests and for the rapidly changing environment that they find themselves and their mission in.
- GIFT increasingly the model of choice for parish religious education. Ms. Venaglia has been involved in training other parishes, e.g., Holy Spirit (East Greenbush).

Chaplain's Report:

- Meetings attended since last Pastoral Council Meeting included the following:
 - Catechetical Leaders of Rensselaer County, emphasizing Virtus training, Code of Conduct, and sexual abuse training, in light on ongoing audit of the Albany Diocese.
 - Rensselaer County Deanery Meeting as part of aforementioned pastoral planning. Formal workbooks are to be distributed in December 2007, with priests heavily involved in the process.
 - Pastoral Planning: local Planning Group meeting
 - Meeting with Bishop Hubbard, St. Michael's
 - Board Meeting of the Rensselaer Newman Foundation

- GIFT was held on 11/4/07.
 - Focus: The Communion of Saints
 - Next Gathering: 12/2/07
- Book Group has been meeting to discuss *Abraham* by Bruce Feiler.
- The local Planning group held an overnight retreat for Junior High students 10/12/07-10/13/07 over at St. Michael's, with C+CC representation; a similar event is planned for 11/30/7-12/1/07, High School students over at St. Jude's, again with anticipated C+CC participation.
- Marie took part in Open House for RPI; these occur approximately twice a semester.

Newman Fellowship Report (M. J. Sorrentino):

- Apple pie/crisp fundraising on 10/19-10/21/07 generated roughly \$500, allowing the Fellowship to put together baskets for Joseph's House (Troy), Emmaus House (Albany), and a Christmas basket through the C+CC program. Dinner that weekend was supplied by the Knights of Columbus.
- 11/4/07: mass and dinner with Union's Newman Center at the C+CC.
- 11/11/07: faculty recognition dinner.
- Weekly meetings since last meeting, with a consistent participation level of approximately twelve:
 - apple pie/crisp preparation
 - values discussion
 - Bible discussion
 - Bishop Tutu video and discussion

Knights of Columbus Report (J. Grimaldi)

- Rosary on 11/1/07 before the 6 PM Mass went well.
- Upcoming Driving Safety Course on 11/18/07 9 AM to 3 PM (room 3510 Union, John Rosbozom 235-5596 contact)
- The Knights are planning a reunion with our past members.
- The RPI K of C council will buy and donate over-the-counter medications to Emmaus House (Albany) before the end of the fall semester, and with the permission of the Pastoral Council, will extend this request to the Christ Sun of Justice parish via a basket in the C+CC.

Parish Life Committee (J. Brennan):

- Parish Life Committee will meet soon to plan C+CC Ladies' Dinner on 1/21/07 (Martin Luther King Day).
- Will try a movie night again, following consultation with UPAC calendar (<http://cinema.union.rpi.edu/>)
- A board game night may be considered as well.
- A general survey regarding the parish was taken approximately two years ago. This may need to be updated.

The meeting concluded with prayer led by Mr. Graver.

Submitted By: Wilson Crone