

MARCH 2008 PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

(3/4/08; 6:00-6:50 PM, C+CC Sanctuary space)

<u>Present:</u>	Ann Brinnitzer, Harry Cooke, Wilson Crone, Lori Fowler (Chair), Frederick Gallo, Brandon Graver, Joe Grimaldi, Marie Venaglia (Chaplain)
<u>Not Present:</u>	Jim Brennan, Fran Hyde, Fr Ed Kacerguis (Pastor), Brenda Williams

The meeting began with prayer led by Ms. Venaglia. She announced that Fr. Kacerguis's brother had died suddenly earlier in the day. The Catholic Chaplain and C+CC staff, along with several parishioners, will join him for the funeral in Bethlehem, CT, on 3/6/08.

Chair Report:

- Approval of 1/16/08 minutes as amended previously in email. Mr. Crone will forward to Jill Wishon, C+CC director, for posting on web site.
- Ms. Fowler reminded members that Council members should be actively recruiting new individuals, as elections for officers will be held at the 4/30/08 meeting. Four positions and three officers (President, Vice-President [traditionally a student], and Secretary) will need to be filled. Ms. Fowler suggested the possibility of a Nominating subcommittee to address recruitment, as a Night of Discernment had low attendance in previous years. Rather than forming a Nominating Committee, the Council members committed to individual recruiting for the following year, and each Council Member agreed to approach at least one individual about serving. Currently, most members are in their third year of their terms or graduating (if students), with Mr. Cooke and Mr. Crone in their first year.
- Members of the Council will have their feet washed and serve the meal at the *Agape* on Holy Thursday.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastoral items were presented by Ms. Venaglia during her report.

Chaplain's Report:

- Activities and meetings attended since last Pastoral Council Meeting included the following:
 - February 9: Ukrainian Easter egg decorating well-attended
 - March 1: Pre-Cana session, with a number of couples in attendance, not all to be married by Fr. Kacerguis
 - April 19 and 20: Pope Benedict visit to New York City. A number of Newman Fellowship students, including Jacquie Fable, Tim Heiman, Andrew Lipinski, Marianne Monastero, and Mary Jo Sorrentino, will be in attendance at the afternoon Youth Rally.
 - July 18, 19: World Youth Day (<http://www.wyd2008.org/>) with plans for simulcast at C+CC.
- GIFT and other religious education:
 - March 2: GIFT session on "Trinity" led by Patrick Quinn focus on St. Patrick.
 - April 6: GIFT session on "Creed."
 - Ms. Venaglia has led the church cluster in planning for intergenerational religious education, although St. Augustine's Church remains very traditional in that regard.
 - Ms. Venaglia has been Confirmation leader for the one parish member making confirmation this year (in conjunction with St. Michael's Church).
- Pastoral Planning:
 - As highlighted earlier, Bishop Hubbard will be receiving Pastoral Planning reports in June. *All* parishes in the Albany Diocese will be affected, e.g., linked, merged, or closed. Fr. Kacerguis and Edward Spain are the leadership group for Christ Sun of Justice.

- The Bishop will return the reports with decisions in January 2009.
- As a result of this planning and changes within the parish cluster, Ms. Venaglia encouraged parishioners to be as welcoming as possible to those visiting/considering C+CC.
- The Bishop's Appeal for this year will emphasize college chaplaincies and outreach to those in nursing homes or with disabilities.

Knights of Columbus Report (J. Grimaldi)

- February 28: Reunion with past members (coincided with the Big Red Freakout), with approximately a dozen charter members returning.
- March 6: Games Night on campus in DCC 308.
- Lenten Wednesdays: Knights have been assisting with set up and take down.
- Late March: Knights to deliver men's supplies to Joseph's House.
- April 13: Knights as part of joint Newman Fellowship/Knights coffee hour.
- April 25/26: Knights on several teams for RPI Relay for Life
(http://relay.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RelayForLifeEasternDivision?fr_id=8107&pg=entry)

Newman Fellowship Report (F. Gallo):

- Changes in officers for the Fellowship:
 - Frederick Gallo, President
 - Tim Heiman, Vice-President
 - Matt Callaghan, Secretary
 - Jacquie Fable, Treasurer Coordinator
 - Melissa Woods, Alpha and Omega Representative
- Spring retreat in Rome NY was successful.
- A number of upcoming activities highlight the strong service orientation of the Fellowship:
 - Lenten Labyrinth (last will be March 6).
 - Joseph House
 - Relay for Life
 - Rice Bowls for Lent
 - Joint Coffee Hour with Knights of Columbus (see above)
 - Ronald McDonald House, Albany
- Alumni Retreat scheduled for end of March.

The meeting concluded with prayer led by Ms. Venaglia.

Submitted By: Wilson Crone