

MINUTES OF NEWMAN HALL-HOLY SPIRIT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
April 11, 2011

Attending were council members, Richard Elliott, facilitator; Bernard Campbell, CSP; Joseph Burns; Michael Dalton; Brian Carlton; Chris Varela; David Hahn; Maureen Hartmann; Dora Henel; Michael King, Rosemary Loughman; and visitor J.C. Orton.

Michael Dalton led the opening prayer.

The evening's agenda and minutes of the March 2011 meeting were approved.

Old Business

1.) Website Update - Joe and David

At the last website committee meeting, Ryan Greenberg, who is spearheading the design of the website, presented five mock-ups for committee consideration. The committee adopted a design combining various features from several of the mock-ups. David has volunteered to email the committee a plan he is developing for the parish website navigation menu: categories and content. Joe has developed a preliminary design for the parish home page, and Fr. Bill and the Student Ministry Team have completed an updated version of the site plan for the student ministry website. All ideas/plans will be uploaded to the committee's website forum ["Basecamp"] for membership consideration before the next meeting in May.

2.) Petrus Development Team followup meeting of Saturday, April 9

20 parishioners gathered to develop a response to the initial "Visioning Session" that was conducted with Petrus representatives in March. Two areas were given priority for our initial response to this vision for Newman's future: Development and Ministries. The 20 participants broke into two groups to identify topics of concern and to develop a plan of action.

Brian, who was in the Development Group, reported discussion on the creation of a database of all kinds of data on parish life/groups/expenses, etc., to inform decision-making and justify funding requests.

David suggested that maybe the database could be integrated into the new website. In followup, various points-of-view were expressed: a) If the database were to go public, we might need password-protection; b) if we chose to make the database public, and if people were comfortable about putting whatever information they have online, we would perhaps not need password access. c) The purpose of the database, at least for now, is to assist development efforts and not to inform the general public. d) At any rate, stewardship and development should be brought up at the next website committee meeting.

David and Chris, who were in the Ministries Group, reported discussion on "mapping ministries" so that parishioners were better informed about what is going on at Newman; starting a student mentoring program; organizing a welcome week for new and returning students during Fall semester; using an e-blast to reach out to those for whom we have e-

mail addresses, but who are not necessarily linked with Newman through Facebook or Twitter; developing a ministry for young families with toddlers.

Fr. Campbell is working on a detailed report of the meeting, which will soon be released to the parish.

3.) Ecology committee report—Christian Munevar is now co-facilitator with Maureen of the Newman Ecology Group. Edward Samaniego and Erin Tanimura are members.

a) Brunch -

The group is working on a brunch [scheduled for Sunday, May 8?] to fund ecological charities, the Pachamama Alliance and Jewish World Watch, and The Solar Cooker Project divisions of Solar Cookers International. Christian will present at the brunch after the 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM Masses, on the need for solar ovens for Sudanese women. Maureen will present on birth among the Ecuadorian Achuar women. For food, Christian has checked at Noah's Bagels and Safeway, and Maureen has checked at Peet's on Dwight and Telegraph. Pastor Bernie is trying to get the coffee and donuts canceled after the 9:30 Mass to accommodate the brunch. The Ecology Group has decided it is better not to charge for the brunch, but to let people make a free-will donation.

b) Composting

There was a question about how the compost is going to be used. The group wants to develop a parish garden. Also, would there be enough compost from the one currently available compost bin to maintain the garden. Maureen didn't think it would be enough. Richard mentioned that he had a worm-composting bin that he could donate to the Newman Ecology Group if the committee wanted to expand the composting effort. It was also recommended that the committee develop and publish written guidelines for care and maintenance of the composting bin.

3). Parish Council membership recruitment update. Richard and David thanked everyone who made pulpit presentations on Sunday, April 10. David noted that we have one prospect at this time, J.C. Orton, and proposed that we do another announcement in May before the May 29 application deadline. J.C. suggested that we might want to do a skit as opposed to just an announcement. There was interest in this idea, which we will reconsider at the May 9 Parish Council meeting.

4). Discussion of parishioners' responses to Sunday Mass changes. While a few mentioned that the change would not make much difference to them, most responded negatively, in particular, those who attend the 11:30 mass. Reasons: a) On Sunday parishioners like to sleep late, so the 11:30 mass is really convenient; b) possible overcrowding at the combined mass; c) Newman is one of the few Catholic churches that serves both families [9:30 mass] and those without families or those whose families are grown up and gone [11:30 mass}. We need both masses.

Parish Council members expressed the following concerns [pro/con] It was noted by several members who had talked to parishioners who attend the 11:30 mass, that nobody was happy about the change. Another council member noted that people who attend the 11:30 mass like to go out for brunch after the mass. The schedule change would interfere

with what has almost become an institution. Several council members mentioned that we can't afford to lose anymore people. Another liked the fact that rescheduling would free up time/space for family/youth catechesis, but also expressed concern about losing parishioners. An alternative option was proposed: Might there be a change that is not quite as permanent, possibly offering the 10 am mass just once a month?

Pastor Bernie recommended that we not make the changes right now but that we reassess the issue, possibly within the next few years.

5) Student Update. RE: polling students about their preferences for scheduling of daily mass or possibly substituting a vesper service for a daily mass. Brian and Chris reported that the Student Ministry Team is fine with the current mass scheduling.

6) Pastor's Update

Paulist Reconciliation weekend. The question was raised as to when there will be a followup gathering of those who attended. The next gathering is indefinite. Pastor Bernie noted that only a few participants responded to an invitation to reconvene, that was set during the close of the Saturday afternoon session of the reconciliation weekend. He will try again.

7) New Business-J. C. Orton brought up the idea of Newman becoming a venue for a homeless breakfast five days a week Mon.-Fri. to replace the breakfast, currently coordinated by the Dorothy Day House at Trinity Methodist Church at Bancroft and Dana, which may stop, when the City of Berkeley cuts off funding for the venue in the near future.

2.). Announcements—up-coming Newman PC meetings: Mondays May 9, June 13(last meeting of the year).

3.) Prayer Leaders: May 9, Chris / June 13, Brian

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.
