

## Minutes from Newman Hall Parish Council Meeting of January 11, 2010

Present: Father Bernie  
Debbie Tatto  
David Hahn  
Maureen Hartman  
Richard Elliott  
Eddie Crochetiere  
Dora Hene  
Kim Nguyen  
Luis Gachuz-Meza  
Antony Wright  
Rosemary Loughman

We opened with a prayer by Joan D.Chittister, OSB, brought by Maureen entitled "Prayer for World Peace." We then proceeded to speak about the following:

### 1) LENTEN SPEAKERS' SERIES

On Monday February 8, 2010 Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC, is scheduled to speak on ecumenical concerns, Rome and the Anglican Communion, etc.

On either Thursday February 25 or March 4 or March 18, 2010 Jim Conlin, Maureen Hartman's friend from Holy Names College, is scheduled to speak on the environment.

On Wednesday March 10, 2010 Bonnie Hardwick will speak about Our Lady of Sorrows.

David and Maureen agreed to make one flyer for these three events. Luis will provide something sweet to eat after the talks. We'll also have coffee and tea.

### 2) ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

Maureen spoke about the rain forest, her pet project, and mentioned the film "They Killed Sister Dorothy" about a 73 year old Notre Dame nun murdered in Brazil by loggers of the rain forest. Debbie said that she wants to make Newman more ecological, e.g. she would like to see more energy efficient light bulbs and more recycling.

Father Bernie brought up the issue of solar energy. Specifically, he wants to know how we can make our building more efficient and how we can heat it more cheaply. AJ said that the City of Berkeley, the State of California and P.G. and E. give rebates for installing solar panels.

Debbie, Kim and Maureen will meet on 1/17/10 under the stairs to talk about ecological concerns.

### 3) NEWMAN'S WEBSITE

Richard spoke about making communication on our website more smooth and about making the suggestion boxes in the foyer more user friendly. Some members of the Council suggested that we study the websites of other parishes, that we include more photos on our site and also a list of all of the various organizations at Newman Hall. Luis offered to read parishioner suggestions in the suggestion box and respond to those who requested a response. Richard wants to see if the suggestion box will be used.

X (AJ?) said that Dan Thomas should do some steering and then be invited to talk to the Parish Council at our next meeting, which will be on Monday, February 1, 2010 at 7:30 pm.

Luis reminded us to keep in mind the responses to our survey of two years ago when thinking about how to change the setup/layout of our foyer/entry hall.

### 4) BOCA

On behalf of Al Roselius, chair of Newman Boca, Luis informed us that immigration reform is Boca's next project and that Boca will be sending out cards to be signed and sent to members of Congress. Luis is planning on organizing card signing at Newman on 2/14/10 and 2/21/10. Boca is supporting the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Justice for Immigrants Campaign, which coincides with upcoming attempts at immigration reform legislation.

Father Bernie mentioned a meeting with the Bishop which he'd attended the previous week at which the Bishop emphasized the importance of our seeing the whole immigration issue within the context of our Christian faith. He stressed that it's not just a political issue. The Conference of Lutheran Bishops and local synagogues are also involved in the effort to help immigrants. There is talk of having undocumented persons talk about their situations in this country (when? Where?) to help educate us about their plight.

Luis mentioned an article in the New York Times that spoke about immigrants dying in confinement facilities of the US government. Debbie suggested donating the Sunday community gift to an organization involved in legal aid for immigrants. (Eddie's concern???) She also suggested that the flap of the Sunday bulletin could be used to write about BOCA's efforts.

We adjourned our January meeting at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Rosemary Loughman