

NEWMAN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
March 14, 2011

Attending were Joe Burns, Rev. Bernard Campbell, Michael Dalton, Chris Varela, Richard Elliott, David Hahn, Maureen Hartmann, Dora Henel, Michael King, Rosemary Loughman, visitors, J.C. Orton and Christian Munevar.

Prayer was led by Joe Burns.

The council approved February's minutes and this meeting's agenda.

Old Business

1.) Brief Website Update—Pastor Bernie and others in the council expressed concern about including contact information for parish leaders in ministry, since the website is open to the public. JC suggested that we don't put the ministry leader's name, but just the name of the ministry on the e-mail address. For example, instead of the name Jeff Dhont@yahoo.com, use lectortraining@yahoo.com. Phone numbers are more personal than e-mail addresses. David noted that whoever is going to be a contact person for a specific ministry has to have the time and ability to respond to many messages. Pastor Bernie noted that a website manager would be hired by the parish.

2.) Ecology Committee Report—Maureen said the Ecology Committee is planning a fundraiser brunch for May 1 after the 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30 AM Sunday Masses. The proceeds will go to two projects: the Achuar indigenous people of Ecuador and solar ovens for Sudanese women. Maureen noted that Christian has asked her to develop a mission statement for the Ecology Group. Maureen passed around an outline of an environmental plan of the Care for Creation group, given to her by Kara Speltz. Pastor Bernie noted that May 1 is First Communion Sunday, so there would be a conflict if the ecology brunch were held on that day. Christian said he would try to find a different Sunday for the brunch. Christian also brought up the care of the compost and garbage bins in the kitchen. Pastor Bernie suggested pictures as well as -- or instead of -- texts for guidelines to the differing foods that go in the bins. Finally, recommendations were made as to what to buy, or not to buy, for the parish kitchen to go green. It was recommended that all utensils -- plates, cups, even flatware be made of biodegradable materials.

3.) Parish Council Membership Bulletin Board—David mentioned that the board was fairly complete except for the biographies of two council members. These council members were asked to email their biographies to either David or Pastor Bernie.

Student Update—Chris noted a strong lack of interaction between students and other parishioners.

Pastor's Update—

1.) Address by Peter Steinfels—Pastor Bernie thought that on the whole, the talk by Steinfels was well received. Between 300 and 360 people, he estimated, attended. He noted that there were no UC undergraduates there. He said that Steinfels thoroughly enjoyed himself.

2.) As far as combining the 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM liturgies is concerned, he has been receiving input from parishioners and will summarize those responses and email to council members. Also, there are parking issues that we have to think about, if we change the schedule.

3.) Regarding the reconciliation event, we have agreed that participants would let Pastor Bernie know by March 26 if they are planning to take part in planning a reconciliation ministry at Newman. There will be a reconciliation ministry meeting sometime in the week after that. They will begin sorting out in what directions the reconciliation energy will go. On Friday night there were about 30 people. On Saturday, the number was about eighteen. People enjoyed the experience, and were energized for action.

4.) Petrus—Report from Petrus is on the web page. Pastor Bernie is hoping to shrink it down to two proposals, with the help of three or four people, and then to broach this to the people who participated in the Petrus meeting. Pastor Bernie wants to get the ideas of those on the council about what should be our next step as far as working with Petrus is concerned.

New Business

1. Recruitment for Parish Council membership. Several council members volunteered to speak from the pulpit about their experiences in council, in order to interest parishioners in serving on the council. David suggested that volunteers meet and decide on what they're going to say. David and Richard recommended that the recruitment process be completed by the last, or June meeting, of this year's Parish Council. It was noted that personal contact has seemed to be the best way to recruit, even though notices in the bulletin and e-mails are important. The first Parish Council pulpit presentation is scheduled for Sunday, April 10.

2. With regard to several parishioners' concerns about the Paulist Appeal - that they were receiving multiple mailings this year and that the request for funding was becoming a financial burden. Here is a clarification from Pastor Bernie:

The Paulist Appeal is a collection that each Paulist Foundation takes once a year. It originates at the local foundation (i.e., Newman) and is an opportunity for people served directly by Paulists to participate in the National Community of Paulists' apostolic efforts (education of seminarians) and needs (retirement of priests) as examples. It is a one-time appeal with some letter writing to some folks on my part to alert them especially to the coming Appeal. Usually we have a speaker come, (i.e., Charlie Donahue). This is usually done in January, but probably next year it will be done in October because of the Bishop's Appeal and the Christmas rush.

The Paulist Campaign is run out of Washington, D.C., and I have little control over that. Perhaps too many letters are being sent to parishioners on the mailing list. Keep me posted. Our five-year campaign is winding down; we have received about \$570,000 in cash with another 280 in pledges [280 pledges?] still to go over the final two years. Newman has received as part of the 20% return about \$115,000 from the Campaign, which helps with our deficit.

Parish Council calendar:

Upcoming PC meetings: Mondays, April 11, May 9, June 13

Prayer leaders: April - Michael Dalton / May - Chris Varela / June - David will ask Brian.

Richard adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Maureen Hartmann.