

NEWMAN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
October 15, 2010

Attending were Joseph Burns, Bernard Campbell, CSP, Michael Dalton, Joe Daniel, Richard Elliott, David Hahn, Maureen Hartmann, Dora Henel, Michael King, Rosemary Loughman.

Richard Elliott, facilitator, opened the meeting at about 7:40 PM. David Hahn lead the beginning prayer.

Following the opening prayer, there was a brief period for membership to share any thoughts/reflections they had about what we had shared at the last meeting and also time for introduction/reintroduction of membership, as three of the membership were not able to attend the first meeting.

The meeting was organized into three areas: (1) beginning development of parish council focus for the year (two-three themes/focal points at most) ; (2) time for input/update from Bernie; (3) discussion of other parish items, e.g., student program/activities.

David Hahn called attention to the highlighted phrase in the September minutes which Bernie took about all of us being connected to each other, and with the bigger parish by implication. Brief discussion followed as to how the council might develop concrete activities around that theme.

Richard advised the group that the decision regarding themes/focal points did not have to be made that night, but that, since most of us are connected with other activities at Newman than the parish council, we might need to streamline our activities, so that we can give proper energy to our positions on the council supporting the pastor and one another.

Bernie noted that the lobby space outside the chapel, due to the work of the parish council, has been made more hospitable and attractive, and

will be even more neat and inviting after the bulletin boards are mounted on Saturday.

David noted that he and Richard, at the hospitality table, and Bernie, before and after the Masses, are able to connect with parishioners and find out what their concerns are. David also mentioned that we now have at the hospitality table handouts including telephone numbers of contact persons for most of the parish ministries. People seem to appreciate that, so it's a big improvement over what we've had before. Parishioners like the new suggestion box which was Richard's creation. They're using it.

A member suggested that the council every other month invite a representative from one of the parish ministry groups to come to our meeting and fill in what is going on currently in their group. It was also suggested that we have a regular blurb about the council in the parish bulletin.

David Hahn noted that he is willing to coordinate, as he did last year, an Advent prayer series. Bernie has already been in touch with several parish groups who have committed to participate and promised to provide names and phone numbers of contact persons.

Bernie asked us to mark out calendars for November 19, which is the date scheduled for this year's super council dinner. He has volunteered again to cook.

Discussion then briefly turned to the topic of updating the parish web site. It was mentioned that Dan Thomas, who is a former member of the parish council, has technical expertise and is interested in helping with the web site. It was suggested that we might approach him.

PASTOR'S TOPICS—

Bernie noted that over the past year, we've had a significant drop in attendance, especially at the 9:30 Sunday Mass. He mentioned the issues

of women's equality in the Church and pedophilia as potential reasons for the decline, but to get parishioner pulse we need to ask for their input. He will be introducing the topic of declining mass attendance at upcoming Sunday masses and using the parish council suggestion box as one way to gather parishioners' responses. He also mentioned that one of the charisms of the Paulist Order is reconciliation, and that if we should need to followup with the ministry of reconciliation, a group of Paulists could come out possibly during Lent and do an assessment.

This reconciliation problem may be related to the issue of stewardship, which is not a fund-raising scheme. It is related to the question of conversion. Out of that conversion comes all kinds of issues, including the sharing of time, talent, and treasure. His major concern is that we have to perform well enough to make people say, "That's worth supporting.."

Bernie also mentioned the changes in liturgy that are coming in 2011. He said he felt that the changes are reasonably easy to adjust to. The major change that will affect people negatively will be the people's having to respond, "And with your spirit," to the priest's "The Lord be with you." The changes in text are rooted in the Latin, not in English speakability. Bernie has said he has brought up the changes coming up at the beginning of Advent 2011 in staff meetings, and they don't want to do anything about the changes until next September. Bernie is for having meetings among the parishioners earlier, so they can give expression to any painful feelings about the changes before the changes actually happen. Bernie has put in bulletin where the web sites on the changes are located.

Bernie would like to see the schedule for Sunday morning masses be 7:30 or 8:00 and 10:00, bringing together the two communities, 9:30 and 1130 . One of his concerns was the current workload of Colleen, who is directing three liturgies every Sunday.

He asked the council to mark their calendars for Nov. 19 as the date of the meeting for this year's Super-Council.

Richard asked what is going on among students at Newman. Joe Daniel stated that student parishioners had been involved for several weeks this year on the UC campus, educating students about student activities at Newman. This time last year the student activity organizers were new in the parish. They have experience now, and things are running smoother.

The council will now meet the second Tuesday of the month. Dates for the rest of this year are: November 8 and December 14.

Maureen will put in the bulletin that the first Newman Ecology meeting of the year will be on Monday, October 25.

Richard adjourned the meeting about 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Hartmann