

Newman Hall Holy Spirit Parish Council Minutes

March 10, 2020, 7:30 – 9:00 pm, Hecker Room

Timekeeper Jimmy Chim, Secretary Ned Niccolls

Attendees: Fr Ivan Tou, Amanda Wehrman, Bob Gannon, Lina Gannon, Jimmy Chim, Jimmy O’Dea, Walt Lindquist, Youali Ramirez, Noah Ismael, Ned Niccolls

Before the start of the meeting we welcomed Lina Gannon, third year Cal student, as a Parish Council member. We greatly appreciate her coming on board.

7:30-7:35 **Opening Prayer** (Bob Gannon)

7:35-7:40 **Adopt February Minutes**—Minutes adopted

7:40-8:00 **Action Items**

- *Student Dinner Planning for 4/26*
 - Amanda will not be available to coordinate this dinner, so PC volunteers are needed to help coordinate. Consensus is that the tacos menu as used last time worked well. (Notes, recipes available?)
 - Jimmy Odea can go to Costco, Lina offered to help.
 - Ned and Yvette, Jimmy and Youali are available as “hands”.
 - It appears we may be a bit short on available PC members, Ned will ask at the Thursday evening RCIA meeting if there would be any volunteers to help.
- *Communications for 2020 open forum on the parish budget*
 - The forum will be April 19. Fr Ivan will send us a draft for review and comment.
- *Joint Meeting with the Student Ministry Team*
 - The best times to have such a meeting would be on a Saturday at 5:30PM. Amanda will put out a “Doodle Poll” to get a specific date.

8:00-8:35 **Pastor’s Notes**

- *Update on Parish Worship Team (Amanda)*
 - There was good representation by all the ministries. The intent of this gathering is to give feedback to and from the ministries. This first meeting was primarily a bonding experience. The ministries will come back again in April.
- *Update on Fr. Steven’s Hospitality efforts*
 - Fr. Ivan pointed out that one visible result of this effort is the lobby—more friendly, less cluttered.
 - Fr. Steven is also setting up a “kindness table” to help foster and support Newman Hall’s positive culture.
 - A monthly email newsletter will be sent to all the Hospitality group volunteers.

- Fr Steven is working on obtaining a funding grant. The grant if obtained will include Safety, particularly personal safety given our urban setting.
- *COVID-19 response at the parish and diocesan levels*
 - This wide-ranging discussion centered around the need to go beyond self-policing.
 - Fr. Ivan pointed out actions already taking place, such as no sharing of the cup, holy water removed, etc. Bob suggested encouraging the practice of keeping an elbow's distance away from each other.
 - It is important that the messaging be clear. Lina noted as an example that we should use gloves when serving food.
 - Amanda brought up the question--what is our protocol if one of our mass attendees were found to be sick?
 - Jimmy O pointed out that it is more likely that the Health Dept would know sooner than ourselves and provide guidance at that time, but still we need to be prepared. During the discussion it was suggested to draft a statement for the website ahead of time for if/when a parish member contracts the virus.
 - Another discussion centered around how to respond when a parishioner wants to have the Host presented on the tongue. While such a practice is not recommended while the virus is active, if a member still wants the Host served in this manner it must be done. To protect other members, those taking the Host on the tongue should be done by the priest only, and only after others have been served. This protocol should be announced ahead of time and put on the parish web site, so those that do take the Host on the tongue do not feel stigmatized.
- *Other updates from Fr Ivan*
 - Discussion of music and liturgical dance. Music makes a difference and is important-- at the same time there are wide-ranging beliefs and preferences in the parish. Bob: perhaps get some of the students involved with the 5PM mass to help direct the style. The music style at the 10PM mass (Robert) is simple and works well with the ambiance of that mass. The Liturgical dance at Easter last year turned off some of the students and others in the parish, while other parishioners felt it was very powerful. There is concern, felt deeply by some, that such dance might be irreverent. (Ned said that is important to respect that...Bob pointed out that part of the experience of being in Berkeley is to have such experiences...). Fr Ivan stated there will be dance on Thursday of Easter. Lina suggested that perhaps there would be an occasional or regular session where dance is shown as part of praising God.
 - Pictorial directory; would someone be able to organize it? The PC sees the value in this. It does take a lot of time. It is usually done in the Fall. While there is the desire to do this no one jumped forward to organize it....Ned moved back the slowest so he may take it on...maybe the Elders group could help.....
 - Notice the associated Pastor Notes from Fr. Ivan

8:35-8:55 Brainstorm Discussion

- *Opportunities to promote staff morale/appreciation (Ned)*
 - *Deferred*
- *Ways to shorten the 10 am mass (Bob)*
 - There was much discussion on this topic. The PC loves the homilies and preaching styles of our priests....we do not want that to change....while recognizing that in particular the 10 am mass has simply become too long. This has been noted by many, including those with children.
 - Possible actions include: starting on time, same style of homilies but be cautious of redundancies, note length of songs, note length and number of intersessions, limit the announcements (3 max?), shorten the collection time by putting the basket at the alter (and later into the security pouch). Jimmy C will time the parts of the mass to gain data.
- *Ways to incorporate women into the Church (Bob)*
 - *Deferred*

8:55—9:00 Future Agenda Items

- *FOCUS to present at a future meeting?*
 - Yes, we plan to have a 20-minute presentation by FOCUS in April to better understand their mission, activities, and how we can help them. With this addition we will increase our April meeting time to 2 hours.
- Looking ahead to 2020-2021 Parish Council recruitment
 - Discussion deferred, except Amanda noted that she will retire from her PC President position.

9:00 Closing Prayer (Ned)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 7:00-9:00 pm, Hecker Room