

**Draft Minutes Rev1**  
**April Parish Council Meeting**

**Newman Hall – Holy Spirit Parish Council**

April 14, 2020, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

**Attendees:** Fr **Ivan** Tou, **Amanda** Wehrman, **Bob** Gannon, **Frank** Rockwood, **Jimmy** O’Dea, **Jimmy** Chim, **Linda** Safarik-Tong, **Walt** Lindquist, **Brandon** Azali, **Youali** Ramirez, **Kimberly** Hebert, **Lina** Gannon, **Ned** Niccolls  
*Secretary: Ned*

- 7:30 - 7:35      **Opening Prayer** – Amanda: see prayer at the bottom of these minutes
- 7:35 – 7:45      **How is everyone doing?**—We gave brief individual updates as people gathered
- 7:45 – 7:50      **Adopt Minutes from March**--Adopted
- 7:50 – 8:55      **Pastor’s Updates / COVID-19 Impact and Response/ Feedback on Virtual Masses/ What are Additional Parish Needs/Additional Ways to Reach Out to the Parish**
- Personnel Action Plan
    - When the “Shelter In Place” (SIP) mandate first took hold, the Diocese direction was to pay all staff personnel for three weeks. After the SIP was extended the Diocese recognized that the Diocese and parishes could not afford spending at that pace. Therefore, the Diocese directed each parish to put together a “Personnel Action Plan” to be submitted to the Diocese for review. The plan is to include a spreadsheet noting actions for each individual starting May 1 (no changes until then). The intent is to be fiscally responsible while being fair to all.
    - Fr Ivan met with the Finance Council and submitted the Newman Hall Personnel Action Plan on Tuesday April 14.
    - Further information: the Diocese cannot provide the parish any additional support beyond what we normally receive. Newman Hall is blessed with savings (set aside for boiler replacement, etc.) so we have some cash to tide us over for the short term.
    - Fr Ivan recounted that as he was praying over the financial challenges the story of Lazarus came to him...that while we have some money for the short term it is not fair to make no adjustments as other parishes are struggling. Therefore, in the Personnel Action Plan Fr Ivan proposed that full time employees will get a 10% cut in May if they are able to work their normal hours. Part time employees will be paid commensurate with their hours worked. Receptionists are furloughed. Maintenance

people/person will receive 75% of their normal paycheck. Fr Ivan talked with the staff and everyone is appreciative. We await the Diocese response to our plan.

- Other Impacts of Covid-19
  - Come mid-May Newman Hall will reassess whether we will reopen the church to live participation, if that is allowed. Newman does not expect that we will be allowed to open completely, nor do we necessarily believe that would be appropriate, because of the large numbers of people being together.
  - In addition to the positive aspects of virtual masses and other tools noted below, Fr Ivan has been impressed that while the last two weeks in March the “basket” collections were \$2500 less than normal, people are being generous with additional contributions.
- Feedback on Virtual Masses
  - Life in the parish has been busy in large part due to dealing with the technology of streaming the masses live. A major challenge was sound and acoustics...our church does echo. Noah found a way to connect directly to the PA system and it improved the quality. Rob Grant came in and effectively and beautifully provided music for a series of masses. Newman Hall looks good on video with the textures and colors of our walls and sanctuary furniture.
  - The feedback from the Parish Council was that the Fathers, Noah, staff, Vincent, and others did a tremendous job at working through the technical challenges. The visual quality, the panning, the supporting clips, the great homilies, all came together well. The virtual masses are very good....and very effective—
  - Some masses had over 1000 “views” via YouTube. People are watching from across the country and even the world. Some alumni “came back” (virtually) to view the masses.
  - Jimmy O’Dea suggested adding a link to the screen shot asking for donations, so that donations could be done immediately.
  - Similarly, Amanda suggested adding a link to the masses or other videos to show how to sign up for MailChimp.
  - Jimmy Chim suggested having a YouTube playlist of homilies (not the full masses) available, since they are already on video. The PC liked this concept and built upon it: Walt noted that the PC could provide some content for shorter (say) five minute “snapshots” of Newman activity, people, and outreach.
- What More Could be Done Virtually
  - Newman is encouraging groups/ministries to participate as groups via Zoom....it is good to see their faces as part of the overall mass. Chat also adds texture to the masses.
  - Fr I noted that Newman has a blog; feel free to contribute...

- Fr I sent two emails to the entire parish via MailChimp.
- Bob G and others like Colleen's musical renditions. Possibly Colleen or others could pre-record music while in a safe (home) place which then could be "clipped in".
- Additional Ways to Reach Out
  - What are we learning from this Covid-19 time? We are learning how to better reach out....
  - Frank asked if Fr I had provided last rites recently; yes, he did. The nursing home allowed Fr I to come in, with protective measures. No hospital calls are allowed because of limited PPE.
  - Loves and Fishes made a meal for take-out.
  - Lots of people are showing up at JC's Sunday morning breakfasts but there are few volunteers.
  - The Student Ministry Team is active, with bible studies, etc. Saturday April 18 will be the first interviews for the SMT.
  - Fr I is thinking of setting up a fund to help parishioners and staff if needed. Fortunately, NH has a food barrel which the Fathers use now but the new fund would be for cash. One thought is to advertise that NH is considering setting up the fund, and parishioners could respond if there are needs. Fr I is trying to reach out to parishioners to see if there is a need, as is Colleen. Fr I has a surprisingly difficult time reaching people on the phone. There was discussion that NH could advertise that such a fund might be set up, and parishioners could provide feedback as to the need.
    - Jimmy O'Dea pointed out that people are often more comfortable giving money to priest's they know for disbursement.
    - Jimmy Chim said it helps if the funding is very focused.
    - Frank reminded us that Catholic Charities are excellent at handling more complex cases.
  - Bob noted that many people need help during this time of stress. Perhaps some of the people involved in the "Busy Person Retreat" could be available for an on-line talk. The first step would be to identify and form a set of people who have the capability to help people that are struggling. Lina noted that some people are reluctant to use certain platforms....one innovative idea might be to use the NH roof where people could talk with the counselor in the open air, at a safe distance.
  - Jimmy O'Dea finds Fr I's messages are moving and worthwhile to send out. Ned likes Fr Steve's messages to the Elders; many of them contain themes that go beyond Elders.....ditto Fr Steven has rich perspectives. The concept here is that we would be taking

what the Fathers have already produced and packaging it for easy consumption.

- Amanda suggested having an Easter Season “weekly homework assignment”...these would not be long; could be just an item or two...again MailChimp could be used to help anchor us in the Easter Season. Amanda, Bob, Frank and others pointed out that many folks are as busy as ever so we do not want to overwhelm people.
- Fr I observed that the Church is not very visible to the broader community. Some of the ideas above could help our Catholic outreach. (But we may need to think more about how to reach non-Catholics).
- Other Business
  - Paulist Capital Campaign postponed.
  - Fr I and the Finance Committee submitted the 2020 budget but it is largely meaningless now.
- Amanda: it is very easy to set up one of these video calls so we need not wait until the next PC meeting.

**8:55 – 9:00 Future Agenda Items**

- Open Forum on 2020 budget
- Joint meeting with Student Ministry Team
- Presentation by Focus Missionaries
- Parish Council cooking at student dinner
- Update on Parish Worship Team
- Update on Hospitality
- Pictorial directory (Elders Group?)
- 2020-2021 Parish Council recruitment
- 10 am Mass time tracking analysis (Jimmy C.)
- Ways to incorporate women in church (Bob)

**9:00 Closing Prayer**—The closing prayer was created by the PC as each member gave a short virtual intercession that was recorded by Amanda

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

(Below is the Opening Prayer used by Amanda)

Prayer for a Pandemic

*By Cameron Bellm*

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our county, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,

Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.