**Newman Hall – Holy Spirit Parish Council September Minutes**

September 8, 2020, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Attendees (Virtually): Fr. Ivan Tou, Amanda Wehrman (Chair), Bob Gannon, Frank Rockwood, Jimmy Chim, Jimmy O’Dea, Kimi Hebert, Lina Gannon, Linda Safarik-Tong, Ned Niccolls, Sam Cabrera, Thuy Nguyen, Youali Ramirez

Secretary: Ned Niccolls

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| 7:30 - 7:35 | **Opening Prayer: Bob G** |
| 7:35 – 7:45 | **Welcome and Introductions for New Council Member, Thuy Nguyen!** |
| 7:45 – 7:50 | **Adopt Minutes from August**  Adopted |
| 7:50 – 8:20 | **Pastor’s Updates**   * Church response to COVID-19   + Biggest challenge is after the mass people tend to forget social distancing and get close together. * Review of campus ministry plans * Update on Presbyterial Council—PC Updated * Updates from Pastor’s Notes   + The One to One connection effort had only 14 people sign up.   + Finances: both income and expenses are down and expenses down. Income is lower in part due to less legacy income. Expenses are down due to lower utility costs and somewhat due to lower salaries. We are currently running a deficit of $33-34,000. Last year there was no deficit.   + Bob (other Bob) installed a new 30,000 Lumen solar parking lot light. A neighbor complained and the light will be moved to the other end of the parking lot.   + BLM sign had two detractors. |

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| 8:20 – 8:55 | **Core Values Brainstorm**   * Review core values brainstorm   + Amanda analyzed and summarized major themes: see Amanda’s summary at the bottom of this section.   + Youali noted themes: how can we approach everyone with Love; also need to be resilient.   + Frank: also Trust has come up several times.   + Jimmy C: when talking with Linda, they noted a vibrant community that drew people in….Love and Inclusive. Jimmy asks: are these values we want, or are they what we have? Also note that these are only the PC, not the whole congregation.   + Frank: is the Hospitality effort still out there, or is it on the back-burner? Fr I:, yes, it has moved closer to a back burner considering other issues that came up that.   + Fr I: it is nice to see convergence on the themes.   + Bob G: It is like Family, not everyone is going to agree, but the beauty of our community is that the diversity helps us polish the rough edges of a valuable stone.   + Jimmy O’Dea: need to keep it (core values) simple.   + Amanda: What is our End Goal? We need to understand our priorities so that if/when things change, we can keep our values in mind.   + Jimmy C: before we make this a broader effort, we need to better understand and have clarity for what our purpose is to define these values.   + Frank R: we are not an empty vessel…we are Catholics, so we recognize that it is more about priorities than core values.   + Amanda to Fr I: what would help him? Fr I will reflect on that.   **Amanda’s Summary of Themes**   * **Serve the student community at Cal x3**   + E.g., working with Focus   + Forming future leaders x2 * **Community x3**   + Inclusive x4     - All people feel heard     - Forum for many unique needs/perspectives   + Hospitality x4     - Joy     - Peace     - Welcoming x2   + Energy x2   + People ask “what can I contribute?”x2 * **Deepen spiritual sensibilities and sensitivities x4**   + Experience the love of God x2     - Love the sinner     - Working with and through God, and with Love   + Faith grows through fellowship x2   + Lifestyle of prayer x2   + Sacraments   + Paulist perspective x2 * **Catalyst for healing and unity**   + Social justice through God * Meeting concluded at 9:05 |
| 8:55 – 9:00 | **Future Agenda Items** |
| 9:00 | **Closing Prayer: Fr I (Mother Mary)** |

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, October 13, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Purpose of Parish Council (*adapted from Feb. 2020 meeting discussion*)

* **The Parish Council is an advisory body.** Our primary purpose is to support and advise our Pastor.We are the collective voice of the Parish community, sharing feedback from the community and providing advice on pressing issues of the day.
* **The Parish Council is a strategic body.** Our job is to look at the big picture and evaluatewhether we are on track as a Parish. Are there ministry needs not being met?
* **The Parish Council is an active body.** As appropriate, we can volunteer to take on tasks that need support beyond staff capacity. However, Parish Council meetings are not designed as working meetings; rather, to ensure sufficient time to carry out our advisory and strategic roles, action steps should be assigned and acted upon outside of Parish Council meetings.

Ground Rules

* **State views and ask genuine questions.** This enables the team to shift from monologues and arguments to a conversation in which members can understand everyone’s point of view and be curious about the differences in their views.
* **Share all relevant information.** This enables the team to develop a comprehensive, common set of information with which to solve problems and make decisions.
* **Use specific examples and agree on what important words mean.** This ensures that all team members are using the same words to mean the same thing.
* **Explain reasoning and intent.** This enables members to understand how others reached their conclusions and see where team members’ reasoning differs.
* **Focus on interests, not positions.** By moving from arguing about solutions to identifying needs that must be met in order to solve a problem, you reduce unproductive conflict and increase your ability to develop solutions that the full team is committed to.
* **Test assumptions and inferences.** This ensures that the team is making decisions with valid information rather than with members’ private stories about what other team members believe and what their motives are.
* **Jointly design next steps.** This ensures that everyone is committed to moving forward together as a team.
* **Discuss undiscussable issues.** This ensures that the team addresses the important but undiscussed issues that are hindering its results and that can only be resolved in a team meeting.