

Newman Hall - Holy Spirit Parish Council Meeting  
*Draft Minutes*  
August 9, 2022; 7:30– 9:00 pm

Attendees: CSP Ivan Tou; Linda Safarik-Tong; Robert Gannon; Ned Niccolls (Recorder); Marie Retherford; Lorina Tornai; Alfreda Campos; Gary Schmoranc; Homer Teng

7:30 – 7:35                    Opening Prayer – Linda (Companions in Community and Service)

7:35– 7:50                    Adopt the Minutes: The last meeting was short and informal so no minutes were taken. The prior minutes were adopted with small corrections.

Introductions: The new PC members briefly introduced themselves, as did the existing members.

We welcomed the new members. Brief intros from the new members included:

Homer: Very excited to be on the PC, looking forward to working with us.

Lorina: Some 20 years with Catholicism, in the last few years have become more involved such as Catholicism WOW, Emmaus and Racial Justice and am looking forward to serving on the PC

Gary: Have sporadically attended since the 1990’s, really like being with students and being close to the GTU

Marie: After 36 years at Newman now realize it is my turn to be with the PC, will be interesting with transitions over the next couple of years, looking forward to it

It was also noted that Ana is now the NHHSP Business Manager and Development Manager. She is the mother of three, and the wife of the former Financial Chair, Arthur. She just finished overseeing a financial review with Armanino. We can contact Ana by email to [admin@Calnewman.org](mailto:admin@Calnewman.org), or one can call the office (510-848-7812 x1005) until mid-afternoon.

7:50– 8:05                    “Nuts and Bolts”; When and How to Meet:

Are the current meeting dates OK? Yes, second Tuesday works for all, 7:30-9:00.

Are people amenable to in-person meetings? We can try a hybrid. The general consensus is that while a hybrid zoom/in-person meeting is not ideal, we can try it for at least a few meetings and see how it goes. There coordination about sharing rides so that more people can be in-person. We could still use zoom for those that are out of town.

Process for recording minutes: Homer will take minutes for September and do it every other month. (Thank you Homer!) **We need a volunteer for every other**

**month.**

Opening/Closing Prayer assignment: Linda will assign a person for opening and closing prayers, one person each month.

8:05– 8:15

Old business – Volunteer Appreciation Event for Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, choir and musicians at masses – Linda

We recalled the previous idea was to have a volunteer appreciation event after a Saturday evening mass but covid and a busy schedule prevented the event from happening. (Fr Ivan pointed out that they have a Google Calendar that the PC could see. It will help the PC to have access to this calendar). The intent is to thank and celebrate all the ministries. The PC puts it on in appreciation for all the parishioners involved in the ministries. After much discussion it was **decided to have the Appreciation Event on Saturday evening October 15**. We will keep it simple: finger food, use Costco food, pizza, dessert, etc. Fr. Ivan will reserve a room. **Could someone (some people?) do decorations?** The entire PC will help put this together.

8:15 – 8:30

Questions/ Ideas from new members (including air filters, 9/11/22 Going Plastic Free; Youth Faith Formation). These came up at our 7/31 social gathering.

Air Filters: Discussed Air Blowers and Filters. Newman already has invested in portable air purifiers and fans. We have a big fan in the multiversity room and regular fans in the Gallery, Hecker, and Emmaus Room. We have air purifiers in the Gallery, Emmaus, and multiversity bathroom. (Fr. Ivan has subsequently ordered a large air purifier for the Hecker room). The strategy is to use the fans to blow in fresh air from the outside and to use the air purifier to reduce any viruses in the room.

Bob: we would need to check the specs. Lorina asked about the process of setting up the room. Fr Ivan noted that in most cases the people just set up the room as they wish. No formal process. Ned volunteered to talk with a knowledgeable person about filters.

There was a discussion about masks. Currently there is no mask mandate, there is no UCB requirement. Students do not typically wear masks,. At Newman, we strongly recommend it but we do not insist, and we provide masks. Marie pointed out that in her medical facility many people are coming in with Covid and the medical staff are getting sick that lasts for weeks.

New topic: Lorina is in Emmaus, which had discussed Laudato Si. She also noted earlier Catholicism WOW Laudato Si discussions. This thread led to thinking about the possibility of an Ecology person could come and discuss how to live plastic free, Sunday Sept 11 after the 10AM mass (“11 O’clock on the 11<sup>th</sup>”). This topic is for information/guidance. (**Hecker room has been**

**reserved).** Marie volunteered to help Lorina. **LATEST NEWS: The presenter canceled.**

Marie: in the realm of “other ideas”: it would be nice for people who are involved in the various committees such as Parish Council, Loaves and Fishes, Catholicism WOW, etc. to have a nametag when they are having coffee and doughnuts that tells others what their ministry is. It would help us be more approachable. Linda noted that in the past there were photos of the Parish Council with names. Fr Ivan: **We (PC members) could wear name tags.**

Fr Ivan: We could have a “Ministry Fair”, the PC liked that idea. Could also have a table for the Catechesis (On Sept 18 is a Catechesis meeting). And we could have other tables (have a competition for the best deserts!?) This should be done for all the masses, the PC realizes this would involve significant planning.

8:30 – 9:00

Pastor's Update

Fr Ivan: It would be great if we had religious education. We have very few young families. We appear to have a demographics problem. There are twelve people in Little Church.

Marie: we have to start younger, otherwise we cannot draw families. We must advertise.

Fr Ivan—families cannot afford Berkeley. (Ned asked: do we know how many families with children could come to Newman? Send out a survey?)

Numbers are dropping for all churches. We are now at 50% levels versus pre-Covid.

Bob: we need to think about what we can do to generate growth. This would involve work. We need to think about this, what are we going to do about it?

Fr I: Yes, that is our challenge. Need to have a welcoming atmosphere. Our No. 1 problem is to how to reach out to folks. Society is working against us.

Alfreda: Two thoughts--We used to have a social committee (that drew people in). Secondly, we are losing a lot of people because people are staying at home because it is easier to just zoom.

Marie: The pandemic is not over. But we do need families, we need to invest in families.

Lorina: Agree with the comments above. But: (as an example of what might be done), in her neighborhood a big church had 5000 people with kids at Easter, and

they were serving the community, also had food trucks, jumpy houses.

Linda: We need to ponder and brain-storm these issues.

Fr Ivan agreed with the points raised above. This is the big issue if we are to be more than a campus ministry.

Fr Ivan reviewed the numbers of Focus participation and costs. The Focus bible study program works well. The Bishop loves the Focus effort, but it is costly.

Most likely Fr Ivan will likely be here for only two more years, so what does the PC and the parish want him to focus on? How do we reverse the declining numbers? We need energy to generate an experience where visitors and parishioners are excited; “Wow, we want to come back here again...”

The Covid lockdown and post-covid conditions have made it difficult to recruit the student ministry team. Focus has done a great job keeping campus ministry alive during the covid lockdown and last year. We however do not want to rely only on Focus for our campus ministry in order to provide the widest net to attract students to the faith.

Marie: we need to have more students involved in activities such as Loaves and Fishes.

Fr Ivan: Loaves and Fishes are currently a closed entity because of Covid so unfortunately that is another area where it is hard for students to participate at this time.

Alfreda: concerned whether we will have only a few new students. Fr I says to wait a bit more before we get too concerned.

Alfreda: We need advertising for the Sept 11 and Sept 18 events. Such as banners outside?

Bob: God is constantly giving us clues, talking to us. We need to continue to pray and listen to our quiet voices and then bring those thoughts to the next PC meeting.

There was a general discussion of how to involve students with efforts such as the Racial Justice group, but how to intrigue them in a way that fit their busy lives.

Linda: when we get a student PC person or two we hope to have an influx of energy and ideas.

9:00

Closing Prayer – Linda (A prayer from Fr Al’s card, “...as evening comes....”)

### 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 evaluate whether 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