

Newman Hall - Holy Spirit Church
Parish Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2022; 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Present: Bob Gannon, Gary Schmoranc, Homer Teng, Ivan Tou, CSP, Josh Romo, Linda Safarik-Tong, Lorina Tornai, Marie Retherford, and Ryan Casey, CSP,

Absent: Alfreda Campos, Ned Nicolls, and Frances Reid

7:30 – 7:35 **Opening Prayer** – Bob

7:35– 7:40 **Introductions**

- Josh and Fr. Ryan self-introduced.
- Josh is active in Newman Grads, and he works full-time as a environmental - engineer.
- Fr. Ryan has been at Newman Hall for 2 months.

7:40– 7:45 **Adopt August Minutes** – completed

7:45 – 8:20 **Pastor's Update**

- Refer to Pastor's Update dated 9/13/22 that Fr Ivan has sent via email.
- This is Grace Shannon's last year working for Newman Hall. She will coordinate catechists for children's faith formation and co-run the youth confirmation group with Martin. Fr. Ryan, who has 25 years of youth ministry experience, has agreed to help.
- The parish intends to hire 2 college students to run the youth confirmation group next year.
- Michael Dalton will continue to run First Communion preparation for elementary aged children.
- There was a robust discussion about how best to engage children, teenagers, and adults with young families in the parish. Marie and Lorina suggested bringing back the Family Faith Formation, and to make the program's expectations more realistic for families.
- In response to the bishop's ongoing request to make Newman's chapel more aesthetically pleasing, Fr. Ivan plans to form an at-large of parishioners to look into

renovating the worship space. Lorina suggested hiring a professional landscape designer to draw up a plan.

- In celebration of Catholic Family Life Week from 9/24 to 10/2, Fr. Ivan asked parish council to organize an ice cream social after 10 AM Mass on 9/25. Linda has agreed to coordinate it.
- On 9/27, the Newman Grads will sponsor a movie night for families.
- Marie and Lorina suggested making the Chalk Talk more user-friendly by putting the question on strips of paper for parishioners to take home for discussion with their families.
- Fr. Ivan is looking for someone to make a big poster to advertise the activities that Newman Hall has for Catholic Family Life Week. He will also publicize those activities in his weekly e-mail updates.
- Fr. Ivan brought up two ideas that Fr. Ken has offered, and the council endorsed them:
 - o *Acolyte Ministry*: A parishioner will be selected to clean the sacred vessels, set up the alter table, and to give Communion. The person will receive training and will be installed at a Mass.
 - o *Processional Cross*: A lector will bring in the processional cross at the beginning of Mass. Currently, the parish has such a cross, but it has never been used indoors. We shall again have two lectors per Mass at some point soon. A few council members discussed the need to have better training for lectors.

8:20– 8:45 **Synod Sub-Committee CDP / Strategy for parish building back**

- Lorina and Homer have met to discuss the parish report of the synod process. They asked council members to select something the council could work on this year. The council members provided the following ideas:
 - o Alfreda wants to create more opportunities for students and permanent parishioners to socialize.
 - o Bob echoes with the need to create more opportunities for all parishioners to mingle with one another after Mass. Coffee and donuts are a good first step.
 - o Marie wants parish to create a physical message board for seniors to ask for volunteer help in meeting their specific needs. She also wants to see a “Catechist Corner” on Newman’s website where catechists could gather ideas and resources for their ministry.
 - o Linda proposes sponsoring monthly food drives that benefit local food banks.
 - o Gary likes to see the parish offer children bible study materials for families.

- There is broad consensus that the parish council should focus on building community at Newman, by organizing at least one activity a month.
- Two activity ideas were brought up for November:
 - Invite parishioners to dress up as their favorite saints for Mass and to call out the names of those saints during the Litany of the Saints.
 - Organize a parish potluck where there will be fun activities like pumpkin carving and pumpkin bowling.
- For December, the council suggests organizing an Advent wreath making activity.

8:45 – 9:00 **Volunteer Appreciation Event and Hosting Student Dinner 9/18**

- The Volunteer Appreciation Event is scheduled for 10/15 after the 5 PM Mass. Linda will begin to publicize the event to different ministry leaders. Lorina reminded Linda not to forget inviting two longtime parishioners.
- Parish council will host Student Dinner on 9/18, after 5 PM Mass. Linda, Homer, and Gary are volunteering for the event. Fr. Ryan states the importance of having at least one vegetarian dish. Fr. Ivan will create the grocery list. Homer will buy items on the list from Costco. Linda and Gary will help cook. Newman Grads will provide volunteers to set up tables and chairs. We anticipate 50-70 students.

9:00 **Closing Prayer - Bob**