

Newman Hall – Holy Spirit Parish
Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

September 11th , 2023

Present: Alan Roselius, Fr. Ivan Tou, Carlos Mora, Gary Schmoranc, Greg Govan, Homer Teng-chairperson, Kathleen O'Brien-secretary, Lorina Daves Tornai, Marc Nguyen, Marie Retherford, Virginia Muller.

Alyanna Asuncion came to the meeting to see whether she wants to be the second student representative.

Josh Schroeder was a guest speaker to tell the council about FOCUS.

Homer started the meeting at 7:30PM.

The opening prayer was led by Kathleen.

The minutes of August 14th, 2023 were approved.

Presentation about FOCUS led by Josh

- 4 FOCUS missionaries in total this year including Rhianna, Jency, Jordan, and Josh. Their own formation includes mass everyday, a holy hour, and rosary.
- Josh explained the mission of FOCUS and their methodology.
 - o Their mission is grounded in Matthew 28 which is to know Jesus Christ and fulfill Christ's mission.
 - o Their model of discipleship centers on the win-build-send methodology. FOCUS missionaries win people over to Christ by meeting them where they are at, build them up in their faith, and send others to go make missionary disciples.
 - o An important component of the FOCUS model is the discipleship chain, which provides a structure for mentorship and accountability in the faith. Students form discipleship chains with one another and the missionaries.
 - o FOCUS missionaries also host bible studies and teach college students to lead these bible studies.
- Statistics
 - o Last year there were 81 students involved in FOCUS led activities. FOCUS was responsible for coordinating a total of 14 bible studies- 10 bible studies were led by students and 4 led by FOCUS missionaries.
- Greg asked how does FOCUS incorporate the corporal works of mercy. Josh noted that they sometimes participate in the Catholic Worker Sunday mornings, but they focus more on bible studies and discipleship.
- Fr. Ivan suggested that FOCUS consider sharing their experience and wisdom of engaging with students of other universities in the area. Josh noted that suggestion.

Setting the Vision and Priorities for the Council

- Homer and Kathleen led the discussion regarding setting priorities. They noted that back in July the council made a list of priorities and then in August discussed the purpose of a council. They specifically mentioned that the council is not just an event planning committee. They stated that the purpose of the discussion is to now narrow down to 2 main priorities that the council will promote.
- The council went through each priority to clarify what each one meant.
- In the end, the council voted to prioritize Intergenerational Collaboration (10 votes) and Integration of Faith and Life (6 votes).

Review of St. Phoebe's Day

- Overall, the council felt like it went well and that it was a great community building event. People from all sides of the issues and different ages attended. Most council members noted that the small groups were the highlight.
- Some students noted that at first they were nervous to attend. In the end they were comfortable to be part of the conversation. Some students were looking for a more rational approach to the topic rather than sharing and reflection.
- Alyanna mentioned that during the liturgy that preceded the event, some students were not used to seeing a female parishioner Amanda Wehrman sharing a reflection from the ambo during the homily time. They were surprised to see her bowing with the presider at the end of mass and processing out with him.

Report on Ministry Fair

- Lorina led the discussion regarding the ministry fair. She explained the layout of the event and what time to get there.
- The ministry fair will take place after all the masses on Sept 17th.

Update on Hospitality Ministry

- Homer explained that the work of the Hospitality Ministry will be taken up by the parish council because no one from outside the council has agreed to be the chair of the committee. This means parish council members will model behavior that promotes good hospitality at the parish, and they will coordinate with ministry groups to host coffee and donuts at various masses. The parish council will discuss modeling hospitality and coordinating coffee and donuts at the next meeting.

Report on Student Ministry

- Marc led the conversation and noted that welcome week activities went very well. They are planning a student mass Oct 8th and also student retreat.
- Marc would like to organize a monthly rosary night where the whole parish can come together. He hopes this would encourage intergenerational engagement.

Report from Building and Grounds Committee

- The Diocese approved the \$100,000 project for the roof and doors.
- The next Habitat for Newmunity is on Oct 21st.

Update on Children Faith Formation

- Fr. Ivan noted that two parishioners named Peter and Eva are going to coordinate the faith formation program and Michael will help with first communion prep. Grace will continue to do

Little Church at 10am. Fr. Ivan will be help to recruit student and parent catechists to lead classes for children ages 3-4 and 6-8.

- There is a need to advertise it amongst the community but there are not as many families at Newman.

Pastor's Update

- The music ministry has had a decrease in participants, especially among the students. Fr. Ivan asked council members to email him advice on how to promote the music ministry among parishioners and students.
- Fr. Ivan would be going to the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress on Saturday September 16th. He encouraged parishioners and students to attend.

Update on Paulist Visitation

- The parish council will be meeting with two representative from Paulist Order on Sept 18th at 7pm to discuss the state of the parish and what kind of person is needed to be the next pastor.
- There will be an open house on Sept 17th at 11:45am for parishioners to meet with the visitors. The meeting will take place after the ministry fair.

Student Dinner

- The parish council is scheduled to host student dinners on Oct 8th and Oct 22nd. Alan will send out an email to council members asking them to select which date they can help with.

The closing prayer was led by Kathleen.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Next meeting: Monday October 16th, 2023, 7:30pm, Hecker Room.