

Newman Hall - Holy Spirit Parish

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2023, 7:30 – 9:00 PM

Present: Gary Schmoranc, Homer Teng (notetaker), Ivan Tou, CSP, Josh Romo, Linda Safarik-Tong (facilitator), Lorina Tornai, Marie Retherford, Ned Niccolls, and Riley Croghan

7:30 – 7:35 **Opening Prayer** – Lorina

7:35 – 7:40 **Adopt January Minutes** – The Council unanimously adopted the January meeting minutes that was sent out via e-mail on January 26. Fr. Ivan has already posted the minutes on the parish website.

7:40 – 8:15 **Further Discussion of PC Operations**

- Linda provided the context for the discussion by referring to a book entitled, “Suggestions for Parish Council: Guiding the Parish, Moved by the Spirit” (2016), which was published by the Oakland Diocese. Chapter Four presents three distinct models for how a parish council would function as a consultative or advisory body to the pastor:
 - o Maintenance – In this model, the council primary role is helping the pastor plan for and manage the administrative needs of the parish.
 - o Organization – In this model, the council’s main purpose is improving the coordination and communication among different ministries of the parish.
 - o Mission – In this model, the council is primary responsible for advancing the mission and vision of the parish through strategic planning.
- Lorina spoke up in favor of a council of “Maintenance” that focuses on improving the building and grounds of the parish.
- Marie spoke up in favor of a council of “Organization” that focuses on sustaining existing ministries and improving the coordination among them.
- Fr. Ivan would like the council to focus on reflecting the pastoral needs of the parish and helping to develop a five-year strategic plan.
- Members present at the meeting agreed with the aforementioned ideas from Lorina, Marie, and Fr. Ivan respectively. They are willing to help Fr. Ivan to form two committees to accomplish those ideas:

- *Building and Maintenance Committee* – It will consist of parishioners with architectural and building expertise. Its purpose is to help oversee the hiring of contractors to repair the boiler, repave the roof, and install solar panels. It will also organize monthly cleanup of the parish grounds. Members suggested inviting council member Bob and parish members Kirk and Randy to be on the committee.
- *Hospitality Committee* – It will consist of representatives from each of the Masses. Its task is to coordinate and publicizing community-wide events such as “Coffee and Donuts” and “Fish Fry.”
- Fr. Ivan will advertise in future Newman Updates that the parish is recruiting people to join these two committees.
- Lorina suggested recruit graduate students from Cal Environmental Studies to help design solar system for the roof, taking into account kilowatt usage of Newman Hall.
- Fr. Ivan said that the parts needed to repair the broken boiler are still not available, because of supply-chain issue. He still would like to repair the boiler, instead of replacing it with a new one. He did not think it made sense to buy a one now because the City of Berkeley is likely to mandate that all buildings switch to electric boilers in the near future. Currently the cost of an electric boiler is prohibitive.
- Marie would like to see the “Habitat for Newmanity” cleanup activity become a monthly event.

8:15 – 8:30 **Parish Council Nominations**

- Fr. Ivan reviewed the following timeline for recruiting new parish council members for the new term that begins in September 2023:
 - 3/26 – Pre-Announce: telling people at each Mass that the council will begin recruiting new members in April.
 - 4/2 – Announce at each Mass the need for 5 more council members and ask parishioners for nominations.
 - 4/2-16 – Collect nominations (2 weeks)
 - 4/22 or 4/23 – Information and discernment meeting of current parish council and nominees.
- Marie spontaneously sang a catchy tune that she had in mind that aimed at encouraging parishioners to consider nominating people for the council. She will refine the song for its debut at all the Masses on 4/2.

8:30– 8:40 **February potluck**

- The parish potluck is on Sunday, February 19 after the 5 PM Mass. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share.
- Linda has bought drinks and decorations for the potluck. Please come at 4 PM to help set up and decorate.

8:40 - 9:10 **Pastor's Update**

- Fr. Ivan provided an oral update about the state of the parish, based on the document that he sent out before the meeting to council members.
- Since the Fish Fry that FOCUS organized last year was popular, council members suggested reprising it during Lent, perhaps on March 3 or March 10. Fr. Ivan will ask Brian Paulson, a member of Newman Grads who volunteered for the event last year, for help organizing it this year. Josh will give Brian's contact information to Fr. Ivan.
- Council members approved the banner design by Randy Dixon that will be hung in the church to brighten up the worship space of the chapel. They would like to see the banners hung on the back wall of the church, on both sides of the crucifix.
- Some council members do not like the design of the altar cloth that draws attention to the two big holes in the front of the altar. They prefer to have a big white linen cloth drape over the altar to cover the two big holes.
- Fr. Ivan announced that Randy will explain the placement of the banners to interested members of the council, after 10 AM Mass this Sunday, February 19.

9:10 **Closing Prayer** – Lorina

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 16, 2023, 7:00 – 8:00 PM