

Newman Hall – Holy Spirit Parish  
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
June 13, 2023, 7:30 – 9:00 PM, Hecker Room

*Present:* Ivan Tou, CSP, Alan Roselius, Bob Gannon, Carlos Mora, Gary Schmoranz, Greg Govan, Homer Teng, Jimmy Nguyen, Kathleen O'Brien, Linda Safarik-Tong, Lorina Tornai, Marie Retherford, Mark Stanley, Ned Niccolls, and Virginia Muller

**Welcome New Members and Thank Outgoing Members**

- Linda asked council members to approve the minutes of the May council meeting that Homer had sent out. Council members unanimously approved them.
- She welcomed members who officially started their terms at this meeting. Everyone introduced themselves around the table.
- She identified the outgoing members – Bob and Ned, and she thanked them for their extra year of service.
- Council members expressed gratitude to Linda for also serving an extra year and for her leadership. Lorina gave Linda flowers as a token of the council's appreciation.

**Selection of Council Chair, Secretary, and Committee Chairs**

- Linda indicated that Homer was willing to be the Parish Council Chair, and he was unanimously elected as the new chair.
- Kathleen was nominated for the position of Parish Council Secretary, and she accepted it. She was unanimously elected to the position. Greg volunteered to be the backup Secretary.
- There was a discussion about membership and function of the standing committees of the council, namely: Executive Committee, Building & Maintenance Committee, Hospitality Committee, and Liturgy Committee.
- Homer explained that the Executive Committee consists of the chair, secretary, and the pastor. Its purpose is to develop the monthly agenda of the council meetings in consultation with the rest of the council.
- Alan was named as Building & Maintenance Committee chair, and he accepted the position.
- Nobody volunteered to chair the Hospitality and Liturgy Committees. Fr. Ivan suggested that council members could be liaisons, instead of chairs of the committees. The council will discuss this suggestion at the next meeting.
- Kathleen expressed an interest in joining the Hospitality Committee. She will reach out to Deborah Tatto and members of Loaves and Fishes Ministry to join her.
- Fr. Ivan is in the process of asking parishioners to join the Liturgy Committee. Virginia, Marie, and Homer expressed interest in joining it. The committee will work with Choir Director Colleen Leonard to plan liturgical celebrations.
- Homer will draft descriptions of the different committees and share them via e-mail.

- Council members were asked to write down their phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Homer will compile the information and share it in a document via e-mail.

### **Orientation of Council Members**

- Homer shared information that he had sent out prior to the meeting about the purpose of the Parish Council and meeting ground rules developed by prior councils.
- He passed around a sign-up list asking council members to lead opening and closing prayers at future meetings. He will share the list of people who have signed up via e-mail.
- There was a discussion about changing the meeting day to the 2nd Monday of the month. The July meeting will remain on the second Tuesday of the month as planned. Members will decide on a regular day for their monthly meetings moving forward.

### **Update on 7/16 Parish Potluck Dinner Planning**

- The members of the planning committee for the July 16 Potluck and Bible Trivia are Lorina Tornai, Marie Retherford, Virginia Muller, and Kathleen O'Brien.
- Lorina and Marie shared that the potluck would begin at 6 pm and the game at 7 pm. Marie described the game: Participants will gather into teams at different tables to answer 10 questions in each of 4 categories, some directly from the Bible. There will be prizes awarded to the team with the most correct answers. A small panel of judges will review submitted answers and name the winner.
- Lorina, Alan, and Gary volunteered to set up the venue on the day of the event. Carlos said he might be able to donate the chicken. Fr. Ryan and Jim Radcliffe have volunteered to cook it, but they would need 2 additional helpers.
- Marie took sign-ups from council members to make announcements about the event at all the masses for the next 4 weeks. She will send the list of people who have signed up via e-mail.

### **Update from Building & Maintenance Committee – Alan reported on the following items:**

- The inside chapel windows have been cleaned and caulked.
- The roof repair company has been hired and solar is moving along.
- The rectory heater has been fixed.
- The main boiler is still not functioning; it needs a pilot light.
- Bids for the doors have been submitted to the diocese for approval.
- The repair for the Hecker Room ceiling leak and the removal of patio planters are in progress.

### **Discuss 9/9 & 9/10 St. Phoebe Day Event and Liturgy**

- Kathleen asked the council for support in organizing a parish event to celebrate St. Phoebe, who was a first century disciple and a deacon of the church. Her feast day is on September 3. She would like to have a two-day event on September 9 and 10 to highlight St. Phoebe, and to celebrate the contributions of women in the church. She envisions it as an opportunity to

revive conversation about the worldwide synod process and to continue the conversations around the Catholic Discipleship Profile project.

- The “Women in Conversation” group will host the event, which will include opportunities for learning, reflection, and celebration of St. Phoebe at all Masses on that weekend.
- Father Ivan brought up the need to be sensitive to all perspectives about women’s role in church and society, from administration to motherhood.
- The Council was supportive of Kathleen’s proposal. She will form a planning committee with leaders from “Women in Conversation”. Council members and interested parishioners are welcome to join. Virginia volunteered to be on the committee.

**Pastor’s Update:** Father Ivan distributed copies of his update that was sent prior to the meeting, and he highlighted the following points:

- The parish is in good financial health, and he is working on creating the 2021 and 2022 financial reports.
- Council members are the “pulse-takers” of the parish. Fr. Ivan encouraged us to bring concerns, feedback, and observations from parishioners to his attention.
- Since Grace is resigning as religious education coordinator, Fr. Ivan would like the Council’s advice on what to do about Children’s Faith Formation. He shared the options he is considering and asked the council to send him feedback. He will also gather ideas from parishioners who have children in the faith formation program.
- Mary Luersen has presented a proposal for a project that will collect memories of current and past parishioners about their experiences of Newman Hall. Fr. Ivan will send this out to the council for review.
- Student Ministry Team member Andrew Song has proposed changes to our parish Mission Statement. He would like the Parish Council to consider making the language more Christological and Catholic.
- In response to Lorina’s inquiry about an article she read in the Catholic Voice about the Diocesan Eucharistic Revival Congress, Fr. Ivan said this is part of a 3-year initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to strengthen the faithful’s connection to Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. The initiative is entering its second year this month. This year’s focus will be on encouraging individual parishes to increase catechetical and pastoral opportunities to appreciate the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. He asked council members to send him ideas and thoughts on what Newman Hall could do.

*Next Meeting:*

*Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM, Hecker Room*