

Newman Hall – Holy Spirit Parish
Parish Council Meeting
Monday, January 8, 2024

Present: Alan Roselius, Gary Schmoranc, Greg Govan, Homer Teng - chairperson, Fr. Ivan Tou, Kathleen O'Brien- *secretary*, Lorina Daves Tornai, Marc Nguyen, Mark Stanley, and Virginia Muller

Absent: Carlos Mora, Marie Retherford, and Sophie Regan

Homer Teng started the meeting at 7:42 pm and led the opening prayer.

The Council approved the December minutes.

Discuss Action Steps to Promote “Intergeneration Collaboration” and “Integration of Faith and Life”

- To get the whole Newman community involved in promoting “Intergenerational Collaboration” and “Integration of Faith and Life,” Council members agreed to announce these priorities in the bulletin and at Sunday masses.
- There are already several ministry opportunities involving students and parishioners of different generations coming together. They include: (1) Adopt-a-Student ministry, (2) elders inviting students and FOCUS missionaries to Newman Elders meetings, (3) students and regular parishioners praying the rosary after daily mass, (4) parish groups volunteering to host student dinners, and (5) students and regular parishioners volunteering with JC to serve the homeless in Berkeley.
- Council members discussed how to better support ministries that are already promoting intergenerational collaboration. They believe that what is missing from the intergenerational synergy at Newman Hall is sustained and repeated interactions to build personal relationships between generations.
- Marc shared that students who come to Newman infrequently or primarily for Sunday worship may feel that it is only a temporary place for worship, rather than a comfortable home. In comparing UC Berkeley's student-dominated campus with the mixture of parishioners and students at Sunday Masses, they feel a difference between a worship space solely for students and a space for both students and non-students. Students stay connected to the Newman community because they enjoy being around their peers and striving to grow in personal virtue.
- It was also suggested that intergenerational collaboration is not a priority that should be imposed on students.

- The Council suggested composing an email asking key individuals within the community to help jump start the intergenerational project. These individuals would plan and lead intergenerational activities and events.
- A council member suggested having a reflection group after mass to discuss the scripture readings at Mass.
- Council members discussed the second priority – “Integration of Faith and Life.” A council member proposed focusing on the social justice aspect of our faith and connecting this to the priority on intergenerational collaboration.
- It was also proposed that the council focuses on the cultivation of personal virtue and sharing our faith in our communities.

Discuss Catholic Hospitality Training Opportunity

- There is a concern that there will not be enough parishioners, especially students, interested in attending the training.
- Marc noted that he thinks there would be student participation if it is focused on the evangelization aspect of hospitality.
- The Council believes we would need more than 50 people to participate in the event to make it worthwhile.
- For the next step, Lorina will reach out to the facilitator and ask how she would recommend promoting it within the Newman community to get enough people.

Review of Presentation about St. Francis on Dec 8

- About 60 people attended the event that Virginia thoughtfully organized and presented. A few council members helped with the setup, including Marie and Lorina. There were more than 25 creches on display. Many people who attended have told Virginia that they found the event meaningful.
- Many council members believed the event could have been better had there been an opportunity for a small group discussion.

Discuss Proposed Community-Building Activities

- Council members decided to host two student dinners for the Spring semester. The proposed dates are February 25 and March 17.
- Council members proposed to make the March 17 student dinner a parish-wide potluck and bible trivia event.

Building and Grounds Committee Update

- Alan reported that the committee has been proactive in keeping up with the maintenance needs of Newman Hall.
- The committee has worked on a number of projects, including: (1) entry doors, (2) rectory bedroom doors, (3) pulley for banners, (4) repair of the heater in the rectory and chapel, (5) new LED lighting for the rectory and chapel, (6) door window for the confessional room, (7) solar panels, (8) organizing 5 “Habitat 4 Newmanity” cleanup days, (9) planning for patio work, (10) getting the gallery doors painted, (11) Simpson ceiling panels, (12) speaker upgrade, (13) patio tree gone along with lots of tree trimming. (14) concrete step work, (15) power washing, (16) chapel sound system, (17) Ana’s office ceiling panels, (18) replacing exterior security light replaced, (19) mounting the TV in the lobby, (20) alarms on two doors, (21) repairing sanctuary cabinet locks, and (22) patio tile work.
- Alan reported that the boiler is now working, and that a waterproof company will be looking at the patio to address the leak issue.

Student Ministry Update

- Marc reported on FOCUS’ yearly conference called SEEK that was held in St. Louis from January 1 to 5. There were more than 20,000 attendees at the conference, which featured talks on evangelization.
- Twenty-two students and 4 FOCUS missionaries from Newman Hall participated in the conference. He mentioned it was a good community building experience for the group.
- Some of the elders at the parish helped support some of these students financially.
- It was recommended that either Josh or a few students give a report about FOCUS either after Mass or at a meeting of the Newman Elders. Then one of the students can give a personal testimony on what the conference meant to them.
- Videos of the conference can be found on <https://seekreplay.com/>.

Open Discussion – Alan would like the council to talk about planning Fr. Ivan’s going away party in April, at the February meeting.

Homer led the closing prayer and adjourned the meeting at 9:36 pm

Next meeting: Monday, February 12, 2024, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM, Hecker Room