

Holy Spirit Parish–Newman Hall Minutes

Parish Council Meeting

February 9, 2009

7:30 -9:00 PM

Attendance

All present but Victoria Ventura ; Fr. Charlie also present and a guest, Norma Borghi, former Newman Parish Council member.

Opening prayer lead by Richard Elliott.

Lenten Series Update

Deborah Tatto shared that the Lenten Meditation series being organized by Jeannie Battagin and other Newman parishioners is scheduled for March 2 through April 6. Retreat flyers were distributed to council members to post at appropriate locations, including the GTU.

Newman Holy Spirit Website Review

Dan Thomas provided a helpful review of the parish website by comparing/contrasting organizational features of the parish site with recommended web practice. A “best web practices” summary handout was distributed as a part of his critique.

Dan’s recommendations:

short term: Clean up Newman site using currently utilized web tools.

(Fr. Bernie’s concern: Interested in who is to be doing the changes. Might mean Newman needs to hire someone, perhaps part-time.)

long-term: (1) Adopt a new web engine (CMS or integrated) to generate web content on the Newman site. Good software programs are free on the web and also have the advantage of being very user-friendly, easy to edit/update with. (2) Consider adopting a multiple-editorship approach rather than one of single editorship (current Newman practice).

Results: Dan, Fr. Charlie, and John McChesney-Young, our current web editor, will form a sub-committee to work on the website update and get back to the council at a later date.

Hospitality Update

Deborah distributed a sheet listing recommended procedures/costs for improving hospitality ministry at Newman. Ideas were generated from meetings of the hospitality subcommittee, Fr. Charlie, and members of the Student Ministry Team.

Additional recommendations: (1) Repaint the currently red entrance doors to Newman to another color: blue? (2) Develop audiovisual presentation to interpret the rationale behind Newman's unique architectural worship space.

Super Council/ Parish Ministries

Rational behind the "Super Council" : Parish ministry individuals/groups are not often aware of what is going on in the Parish Council, and vice versa, the Parish Council is not often aware of what is happening at the parish ministry level. Thus, both levels need to congregate/communicate.

Fr. Bernie volunteered to spearhead a social event – to host a dinner – for the parish ministry leaders and the Parish Council (perhaps for up to 50 persons), so that we can get together as a group. A date for the dinner was set: April 20.

Parish Survey Results/Activities

This item on the agenda was omitted because of lack of time. It will be covered at the next council meeting in March.

Parish Finances

The 2009 preliminary budget was submitted to council members by Fr. Bernie. In concluding this part of the meeting agenda, Jim Donato raised the question: What is the Parish Council's role in guiding/advising/assisting the parish Finance Committee in ensuring financial solvency and growth for the Newman community? Next month's agenda will include discussion of stewardship, bequests, etc.

Minutes submitted by David Hahn