

Holy Spirit Parish-Newman Hall Minutes

Parish Council Meeting
Minutes

Jan 12, 2009

7:30 -9:00 PM

Attendance

All except Jim Donato, Victoria Ventura, and AJ (Anthony Wright)

Regarding Hospitality:

Deborah: She, Richard and Eddie Samaniego conferred about the hospitality issues. They especially took note of Fr. Bernie's desire that the student community be involved in the process. Fr. Charlie is here to share more. Her concern is that students may not have much of a sense that they are part of something bigger, i.e., a parish. She wants to find a way to do something about that to ensure they do.

Fr. Charlie: He appreciates initial concern but disagrees with the premise. The life cycle of Newman seems to happen on a few different schedules. Sunday morning is not "roll out of bed go to church" time for young adults. Students run more on the Sunday evening schedule. More can be done for us to intersect adults (morning), and students (evening) on Sunday. He does not think that students don't see this as a parish. The average active student is involved in the parish life. More than half of lectors and Eucharistic ministers are students. 1/3rd of Sunday morning teachers are students.

The schedules of students come into play. Students can't do Easter and Christmas break. Suggests Student Ministry Team be part of how Newman plans hospitality so there are no fulfillment issues.

Some "stuff" regarding visual communication may look messy but is on purpose. Things are meant to overlap and be askew to reflect the eclectic nature of student life. He asks we remain flexible in governing visual communications.

Thinks principal things we can do together more are Student Dinners. The biggest thing is Easter Brunch. Is considering possibly exploring the idea of a Holy Spirit Mass. From a church standpoint hospitality is important after Mass also, not just before Mass begins. Wants to look at opening up student programming- rosary group and scripture studio. There is room in those two to be more open.

Asks we think about academic schedule when we set event dates in this council. He asks the question in reverse to us: Do parish families see this place as a

student ministry center? We may be able to play a reconciliation role in community mediation in order to help build bridges between the communities.

One thing Newman as a whole hasn't done was get all those currently leading Newman programming together. It seems to be a good networking opportunity. The students have a subcommittee of art and architecture students who are ready to help design and physically make/implement new things.

Regarding Lenten Meditation Series:

Deborah:

She talked to Jeannie today. She sees this as Parish Council's gift to the parish. Jeannie wants us to start looking at tasks to tackle. In the past, Parish Council was to do one social event and one prayer event each year. Jeannie has booked rooms, taken care of bulletin schedule. What she needs are volunteers to do the events during the series. First Wed is Feb 25th. Debbie asks that by our next meeting, parish council should be able to step up and volunteer.

Bernie:

He sees this as much larger than just Parish Council. The logistics to volunteer need to be opened wider, because it is very much work. He is not asking Parish Council to take primary lead. We should invite others to help by creating a sign up sheet. Jeannie will make an announcement at Masses.

Debbie: Thinks it would be nice for her to find out a list of all the groups at Newman and a letter go out to each of them inviting them personally to LMS. She will go to a handful of meetings herself to invite people to.

Luis: What happened to the meditation group?

Bernie: It is no longer meeting, but is not sure why. It was a group meeting on Saturday afternoon and one on Sunday night. It just became very small.

Richard: He would like to compliment the bulletin maker during the Christmas season because on the front page there was something substantial. He suggests things are given more substantial space as details are finalized for events and programs. Noticed in parish survey that 60-70% said that bulletin was still essential.

Deborah: She is looking at other opportunities during Lent for social service through the working group. Should we look at survey results to see if there are any pressing issues to tackle right away?

Bernie: Suggests Adult education be addressed in response to Debbie's question. When do we do it? Thursday evening is a nice idea but is a pipe

dream. Sunday is the day. How do we use Sunday morning and what does that mean? It has significant ramifications in the Mass Schedule. There are various groups within the community of faith: how do we do this? Given the limits of our space, how do we best implement this? Council may want to set up a subcommittee for this. Suggest maybe one large Mass in the morning, and one later. Find a time for the education time in between. There are lots of questions on how to structure classes, 3-4 week series, lots of talent to take advantage of. There was a group that was in charge of adult education but it need not be only them who plans this.

Luis: The problem with the different issues raised last year is that he feels Parish Council raises lots of issues but doesn't follow through.

Linda: Thinks that we don't have any resources but ourselves. No space, no means to schedule rooms.

Luis: Sometimes he feels like blindsided as if he was in the middle of a conversation that he didn't know was an issue.

Deborah: There was miscommunication about a small meeting between Charlie, Deborah, and Eddie Samaniego versus a larger discussion in the full Parish Council meeting.

Luis: Seen the issue raised again about student cooperation. When he was a student the issue was raised about multiple groups that don't understand why they exist separately. They serve different constituents.

Linda: Constituents don't really want student and parishioner intermixing. People think it's nice in theory but in practice it doesn't happen.

Richard: Maybe they don't need to intersect continuously - one of his issues is, he is not fully aware of all the groups functioning in the parish. Needs to be one group to understand what is going on in the whole parish. Would like to see Parish Council full of knowledge in that sense. Long-term type of thing.

Deborah: One time last year we had a "supercouncil" meeting. It comprised of about 6-7 people introducing themselves and what their groups do. Perhaps doing such again would be a beginning.

[This speaker wasn't noted in the original notes]: If we think each of these programs as a different ministry of the Parish, we have to frame this as a call to ministry. These ministries are the life of the parish.

Luis: We need to let people know in a more effective way that these are ways to participate in the parish. We do not do that well.

Richard: Seems to me that in the style of the catechesis at the end of the Mass that each week we should feature a different group. The pulpit is where people are still paying attention.

[This speaker wasn't noted in the original notes]: He thinks they should be thematically grouped on the paper so that people know the one place to look to read about related ministries.

Bernie: He suggests some type of kiosk that is attractive and showcases the different ministries. Modular so it can be changed as needed. Highlighting groups on occasion.

[This speaker wasn't noted in the original notes]: The problem isn't the lack of information. If we were to have one person per week give an elevator speech on their program, it is a personal communication that is much better than a piece of paper. Bernie says that there are six Masses per Sunday, which presents a logistical issue.

PASTOR INPUT:

Had a lovely preaching gathering last Saturday. Michael Hughes is a new member of the preaching group.

Finances- Financially we will close the year \$15 to \$20k in the hole. Compared to projection of \$83k deficit, this is great. This was thanks to \$40 k from the Paulist campaign for the future. Will expect to receive an additional \$80k if all the pledges are fulfilled. We put a chunk into helping Loaves and Fishes. Paid for a new fridge, \$4k. Fr. Al no longer receives a salary from the parish in order to cut down the budget and to free up money to hire a second campus minister, which we could not do. He was hoping to be in the \$5-\$8k deficit range but apparently not. Issues are that expenses keep going up- 4.5% mandated increase in salaries by Diocese. Paulists agreed to forgo that to keep the ship afloat. Major repairs for the library will cost \$100k. We do have about \$375k in savings (not sure of number, don't hold him to that). We have to find other sources of income. Staff suggests using it as an event facility, but Bernie has many reservations on that issue.

[This speaker wasn't noted in the original notes]: Been in touch with Sharon Hawkins, social service working group.

Take Homes:

Deborah will continue on the hospitality.

Deborah will extend the invitation to the super-council

Next month we will wrap up the Lenten series planning