

Newman Hall - Holy Spirit Parish  
Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 12, 2024

*Present:* Alan Roselius, Carlos Mora, Gary Schmoranc, Greg Govan, Homer Teng - chairperson, Fr. Ivan Tou, Kathleen O'Brien - *secretary*, Lorina Daves Tornai, Marc Nguyen, Marie Retherford, Sophie Regan, and Virginia Muller

*Absent:* Mark Stanley

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Homer Teng started the meeting at 7:35pm. Kathleen O'Brien led the opening prayer. The council unanimously approved the January meeting minutes.

### **Update on Parish Council Priority - Intergenerational Collaboration**

- Greg Govan and FOCUS Missionary Josh Schroeder have convened a small group to discuss how the parish could be more intentional about promoting intergenerational understanding and collaboration. The other two members of the group are Marc Nguyen and Andrew Song. They are members of the Student Ministry Team (SMT). Marc also represents the SMT on the parish council.
- The group had a good first meeting a couple of weeks ago, in which they started getting to know each other and their respective faith journeys. They also discussed their views and personal interests in spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Greg commended members of the group for their dedication to evangelization and to promoting spiritual devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.
- How do we as a parish become more intentional about promoting intergenerational collaboration? Some council members mentioned that the social event, "Coffee and Donuts" that takes place after the 10 AM Mass provides a good opportunity for people of all age groups to build relationships.

### **Discuss Parish Council Priority – Integration of Faith and Life**

- Homer Teng and Kathleen O'Brien led the discussion on this item. Council members agreed that this priority involves multiple areas of parish ministry, including social justice, spirituality, evangelization, and community-building. The council was unable to reach a consensus on what "Integration of Faith and Life" entailed.
- Fr. Ivan proposed two questions that could guide council members to clarify what this priority meant: (1) How does a person's faith influence the way they conduct their life? (2) How do council members support parishioners to exercise their faith in all aspects of their lives?
- A council member suggested putting a question on the big screen in the chapel before the 10 AM Mass, inviting people to think about how they integrate their faith convictions into their daily lives. The member would like to see parishioners talk about this question with one another during "Coffee and Donuts."

### **Parish Council Self Evaluation**

- Kathleen O'Brien led the discussion on this item. Council members shared their feedback on how they have been functioning as a group.
- Homer Teng noted the accomplishments of the parish council since June 2023:
  - o Parish Potluck and Bible Trivia Night in July 2023 – led by Marie and Lorina.
  - o St. Phoebe's Day Liturgy and Discussion in September 2023 – led by Kathleen.
  - o Ministry Fair in September 2023 – led by Lorina.
  - o Two student dinners – led by Alan.
  - o St Francis of Assisi presentation and crèche display in December 2023 – led by Virginia.
  - o Installation of new artistic banners in the chapel.
  - o Planned and executed ongoing capital improvements and maintenance projects – led by Buildings and Grounds Committee.

### **Update on Catholic Hospitality Training Opportunity**

- Lorina Tornai has put together a promotional e-mail to gauge interest among parishioners on having a full-day training on Catholic hospitality.
- Fr. Ivan offered to have parish administrative assistant Amy LaGoy work with Lorina to put together a Google survey that would be sent out to parishioners.

### **Upcoming Events Update**

- Homer reported that the council will host a student dinner on March 3. The chairpersons of the event are Alan Roselius, Lorina Tornai, and Carlos Mora. Gary Schmoranc, Sophie Regan, Marc Nguyen, Virginia Muller, and Mark Stanley volunteered to help at the event.
- The council will organize a Parish Potluck and Trivia Night on March 17. The chairpersons will be Marie Retherford, Marc Nguyen, and Carlos Mora. Homer Teng volunteered to help at the event. Announcements will be made at all masses on March 2 and 3.
- Fr. Ivan's tenure at Newman Hall will end on July 1. Council members thought the best time to have a farewell party would be at the end of April. SMT will assist in planning it.

### **Building and Grounds Committee Update**

- Alan Roselius reported that a new wi-fi system has been installed, and that the committee is working on solving the patio leak. The fact that the planter boxes are empty will help limit the leaking.
- The committee plans to have a big cleanup day before Easter. To better reflect the nature of the work that is involved, the group is thinking of renaming the cleanup day from "Habitat for Newmanity" to "Gardening Angels." The committee hopes that this rebranding will attract more volunteers to participate in the event.

- Marie Retherford will send out an email message to Business Manager Ana Perez asking the parish maintenance man Max Depaz to clean up the weeds on Dwight Way and College Ave.

### **Student Ministry Update**

- Marc reported that Rhianna Thomas, one of the FOCUS missionaries, is preparing a mission trip this summer.
- SMT has held an event called Open Tomb in which a student talked about false humility and finding healing in Christ. Some council members asked that this talk be given to the larger parish community.
- SMT has been preparing for the annual Ash Wednesday mass on the UC Berkeley campus. Bishop Michael Barber will preside at the liturgy.
- On the Friday of the first week of Lent, SMT will have a 24-hour long adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the chapel. All parish members are encouraged to participate.
- SMT is organizing a Spring retreat for students that will take place from February 23 to 25.

### **Young Adult Ministry Update**

- Sophie Regan reported that the Men's and Women's groups of Newman Grads meet regularly on Thursday night at 7pm.
- The Sunday Social has been a success. After the 10 AM Mass on Sunday, about 40 young adults will walk to a neighborhood coffee shop or a brunch place together to socialize. On Sundays where there are "Coffee and Donuts" after Mass, the young adults will stay for that community gathering.
- Newman Grads is organizing a retreat that will take place from February 23 to 25 away from Newman Hall. The retreat can accommodate up to 25 people, and it is open to all parishioners.
- The goals for Newman Grads this year: (1) Connecting more with undergraduate students, and (2) organizing a speaker series for Catholic professors to share their perspectives on the topic – "How to be Catholic in Academia."
- Fr Ivan invited the Newman Grads to collaborate with him to organize a dinner at the rectory for Berkeley faculty members who are Catholics. He further suggested that faculty members and grad students could have a panel discussion after the dinner.

### **Pastors Update**

- Fr. Ivan went over his "Pastor's Update" that he distributed at the meeting. He asked council members to e-mail him their observations about the parish.

- After discussion, council members thought it would not be necessary to form a committee to address any lingering trauma from 11 years ago when the Bishop of Oakland dismissed a Paulist pastor.
- Council members recommended putting patio paving and other maintenance projects into the parish budget for 2024-25. Lorina suggested buying 6 additional round folding tables, each 60" in diameter.
- Fr. Ivan encouraged council members to send him suggestions on how Loaves & Fishes should spend down their budget surplus, as recommended by the Diocese of Oakland.
- Fr. Ivan noted a lack of volunteers among parishioners to organize activities. He asked council members to think about how to get more parishioners engaged.
- Council members suggested inviting Rich Campos, the chairperson of the Finance Council, to attend the next parish council meeting.

Kathleen led the council in a closing prayer. Homer adjourned the meeting at 9:33pm

Next meeting: Monday, March 11, 2024, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM, Hecker Room