

## Newman Hall - Holy Spirit Parish

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 11, 2024

*Present:* Alan Roselius, Carlos Mora, Gary Schmoranc, Greg Govan, Homer Teng – *chairperson*, Rev. Ivan Tou, C.S.P. – *Pastor*, Lorina Daves Tornai, Marc Nguyen, Marie Retherford, Mark Stanley, Sophie Regan, and Virginia Muller, and Zach Turner, CSP – *Paulist seminarian*

*Absent:* Kathleen O’Brien – Secretary

---

Homer Teng called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM. Alan Roselius led the group in an opening prayer.

### Discussion of February Minutes

- The council came to a consensus that the minutes should not include the names of members who voice private opinions. It is alright to mention the full names of members who make committee reports or motions.
- The council decided to suspend approval of February minutes until edits are made that correspond to the above consensus. Homer will send out the corrected minutes to members, who will approve them via e-mail consensus prior to the next meeting.

### Pastor’s Update

- Fr Ivan relayed the news that the Paulist order will be leaving UC Berkeley after 117 years, effective June 30, 2024. The main reason for this decision is the shortage of priests in active ministry. The order is also leaving another college and closing three of their national ministries.
- The order will be releasing a press statement on Wednesday, March 13 to announce these changes. The Diocese of Oakland will issue a press release later the same week.
- Three possible scenarios for the future of Newman Hall-Holy Spirit Parish:
  - The Bishop of Oakland may appoint a diocesan priest to lead the parish.
  - The bishop may merge the parish with St. Joseph the Worker parish in Berkeley.
  - The bishop may appoint another religious order to run the parish.
- Fr Ivan suggested different ways of communicating this change to the community. After some discussion, the council agreed to support a video announcement by Fr. Ivan to the parish

community. Several council members volunteered to be in the video as a show of solidarity. The recording is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14 at 11:30 AM in the chapel.

- The council agreed to organize Town Hall meetings after each Mass on April 6 and 7 to allow parishioners to give feedback and receive an update about the upcoming transition.
- For guidelines on handling the present situation, Fr Ivan reviewed the five stages of grief – denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. He then described an alternative model: shock and disbelief, searching and yearning, disorganization & repair, rebuilding & healing. A general discussion followed.
- Fr Ivan led the council members to discuss recommendations for the bishop about whom would be a good fit for Newman. The council would like to see that a pastor who is good at engaging with students. We would also like to have someone who will honor the core values of the parish and support the vibrant lay-led ministries that involve parishioners of different generations.
- Fr. Ivan's transition plan will include: (i) updating job descriptions of staff roles, (ii) documentation of Newman procedures and policies on administration, ministries, and physical plant, and (iii) cleaning up priority projects. These items will be included in a transition document that will be given to the new pastor.

### **Upcoming Activities of the Parish Council**

- March 17, 2024      St. Patrick's Day Potluck and Trivia Night
- March 23, 2024      Newman Cleanup and Gardening Day
- March 24, 2024      Coffee & Donuts and Easter Egg decorations after 10 AM Mass
- March 31, 2024      Easter Sunday – Bring your favorite muffins to share and enjoy an Easter Egg hunt upstairs.
- April 1, 2024      Meeting to plan town hall meetings
- April 8, 2024      Next regular PC meeting.
- April 28, 2024      Farewell party for the Paulists – designed for students. Everyone is welcome.
- June 22, 2024      Final farewell to the Paulists after 5pm Mass – designed for Parishioners. Everyone is welcome. Paulists who served at Newman in the past will be invited.

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

- Alan Roselius reported that the boiler has been inspected and is working well.

- The committee is developing a strategic plan.
- Parish cleanup and maintenance day will be on March 23, 2024.

### **Student Ministry Team (SMT) Update**

- Marc Nguyen reported that SMT had a successful retreat on February 23-25. About 50 students attended the retreat.
- The Dominicans are giving a talk on March 13 about 'Is Jesus the Only Way to Salvation?'
- Fr. Gregory Pine O.P. gave a talk on campus about predestination on March 11.
- Two Catholic Berkeley professors are beginning a series of weekly talks on various topics on Christian apologetics on March 13.

### **Young Adult Ministry Update**

- Sophie Regan reported that the Newman Grads held a successful retreat at the Ignatius Retreat House in Guerneville on February 23-25. Twenty-five people attended it.
- The Newman Grads is collaborating with young adult groups of other parishes to do activities such as hiking.
- The Newman Grads continues to organize weekly Men and Women's Groups, as well as Sunday socials after 10 AM Mass at local restaurants.
- The group is planning a celebration for Deacon Bryan Paulson, who will be ordained in Milwaukee on June 8.

Alan led the closing prayer. Homer adjourned the meeting at 9:38 PM.

### **Next Meetings:**

- April 1, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM: Town hall planning meeting
- April 8, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM: Regular council meeting