

Newman Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

April 5, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

ERC

Minutes

A. Opening Prayer – Justin Patchin

B. Review draft of minutes from 11-16-21

One correction: The mission coop priest's name is Fr. Anthony Bala

C. Review Synod on Synodality Report

D. Committee Reports:

1. Family Life – Mary Richmond

Some of the parish socials are back and have been received well. Donuts and Pizza after Sunday Masses are going well, and more people are joining and staying. After the Easter Vigil there were desserts and drinks to celebrate and welcome the new Catholics. Parish members are finishing up calls to other parishioners and it's going well, some really enjoy the call and some don't really need it.

2. Sacred Worship – Mike Vruwink

Feb 28th was the set up for Lent. Friday, April 15 after Good Friday Service will be the set up for Easter. June 7th will be the set up for ordinary time. Fr. Dan is training parish members to bring Communion to homebound parishioners. Possibly going to do a survey on Mass times if it looks like we might return to the Sacred Heart Hospital chapel. Mass attendance is not back to pre-covid rates and varies a lot per weekend.

3. Education – Fr. Dan Oudenhoven

Religious ed. coming to an end within the next couple of weeks. The Speaker series talks went well.

4. Peace & Justice – Lou Hoeschen

The Beacon House Christmas toy project went well. Had help from middle schoolers and college students and parish members. Julie Bollinger will be trained to lead it along with another parish members in the future.

5. Newman Catholic – Anna Dresang

The semester is going great, chalking on campus, fish fry and Stations of the Cross, River West Food Pantry Spring Break Mission Trip, Pilgrimage to La Crosse this weekend.

E. Discussion items:

1. Works of Charity – Fr. Dan Oudenhoven

Three new groups: Hope Village - Chris Maslonowski is a parish member and part of their leadership. Afghan Relief - Bea Evans coming to talk on April 6th to Peace and Justice. Fierce Freedom works to prevent human trafficking.

2. FOCUS – Fr. Dan Oudenhoven

There have been talks at the Diocesan level about bringing FOCUS missionaries to all of the Newman apostolates in the Diocese. While there was a desire, there wasn't a clear sense of funding. Then the Bishop received a sum of money that was from Diocesan investments for his discretion, and he used it for FOCUS missionaries. Several parishioners are unhappy about FOCUS coming to EC. Some people believe that FOCUS is going to take over and be the only way students can participate in their faith. Savannah will still direct campus ministry, but the FOCUS missionaries work to connect more students with the parish and campus ministry. There will still be parish campus ministry events like there are now. FOCUS primarily runs bible studies and one-on-one mentorship with students. They have a model of friendship and walking with others in faith. Not every student will need or work with the FOCUS missionaries, but it can change the lives of some students and help them grow in the Catholic faith.

3. Diocesan Capital Campaign – Fr. Dan Oudenhoven

20 parishes are going through the campaign right now in the pilot phase. Newman will be starting in August and going thru the Fall. It is a 5 year campaign. 65% stays in the parish and 35% goes to the Diocese. Our campaign goal will be \$455,000. We will be raising money to increase our parish endowment.

4. Pastoral Council member terms – Justin Patchin

Justin has served three terms on the pastoral council and will be finishing his service. Lou completed one term and will not be seeking another term. Anna and Alex are graduating and will finish their service.

F. Other feedback/concerns – Justin Patchin

Liturgical music is perceived to have gone down in quality. COVID has impacted this, couldn't have large groups of musicians. Also couldn't recruit and hire more singers when we were just trying to have Masses for the current singers. Will make a push in the fall to grow the music ministry.

G. Closing Prayer – Fr. Dan Oudenhoven

Next meeting(s): TBD

Newman Parish Pastoral Council Members: JoAnn Adams, Anna Dresang, Alex Drost (secretary), Lou Hoeschen, Ryan Luedtke, Justin Patchin (chairperson), Mike Vruwink, Brenda Weisenbeck