

Newman Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
September 20, 2022 6 pm

Members Present: Fr. Dan Oudenhoven, Breanna Mehrwerth, Andrew Weiss, JoAnn Adams,  
Mike Vruwink, Ryan Luedtke, Pat Solfest

Members Excused: Brenda Weisenbeck

- A. Opening Prayer: Fr. Dan Oudenhoven
- B. New Council Positions: Fr. Dan Oudenhoven  
Mike Vruwink volunteered to be the chairperson; Pat Solfest volunteered to be the secretary.
- C. Review draft of minutes from 4-13-2022  
Addition: Julie Bollinger and Carol Gorzek have volunteered and will be trained by Lou Hoeschen and Laurie Hittman to lead the Beacon House Christmas Toy Project.
- D. Committee Reports
  1. Family Life – Mary Richmond
    - Monthly hospitality weekends will be held with donuts after both morning Masses and pizza after both evening Masses. There will be three hospitality weekends each semester. The first was held Sept 10/11 with good attendance and fellowship.
    - 35 students attended the first Wednesday Mass n’ Meals.
    - 169 dinners were served at the first monthly student dinner.
  2. Sacred Worship – Mike Vruwink
    - The worship space was decorated Aug. 30 for Ordinary Time; the next decoration change will take place in November for Advent.
    - Collections during Mass will begin again with wicker baskets being used rather than the previous cloth bags.
  3. Education – Fr. Dan Oudenhoven
    - WNYP orientation will take place Sep 21<sup>st</sup>; catechist/ teacher positions are all filled and students have signed up. There is a good turnout at each level.
    - Parishioner small groups continue to grow.
    - OCIA has 3-4 individuals signed up so far.
    - Chris Stefanik “The Search” video series will begin Oct 3 and run through Nov 21.
    - There will be two speaker series talks in the fall. Chris Carstens will present on Eucharistic Revival.
  4. Peace and Justice – JoAnn Adams
    - Bea Evans presented to the committee on the status of Afghanis in the community. Discussion included possible ways to offer assistance.

- The committee has volunteered to provide lunch to volunteers of the Chippewa Valley Free Clinic twice a year.
  - Donna Raleigh indicated the Chippewa Valley Street Ministry's current needs include bottled water, socks, warm blankets, and winter coats especially in large sizes.
  - Ken Ripp met with the new Sojourner House director. Her current focus is on construction and updating policies. The warming/cooling center is still open.
  - Jo Ann Adams reported on the Inclusive Ministry Service held at Lake Street Methodist Church.
  - Members recently read Demystifying Disability by Emily Ladau and Building a Bridge by James Martin. The committee would like to recommend these books be considered part of a discussion group within the parish in the future.
  - The group has discussed how to involve more Newman members and to make all people feel included and welcome at Newman.
5. Newman Catholic – Breanna Mehrwerth
- The student leadership team fall retreat was held and included the new FOCUS missionaries.
  - There are 23 Newman Catholic leaders, with two new members.
  - The group is planning service, prayer, and social connection activities for the semester to foster community growth and bring more students into campus ministry.
  - Newman Catholic had a table at BOB (Blugold organizational bash) with many volunteers and good student response.
  - Bible studies will start soon with FOCUS inviting students to attend.
  - Newman Catholic is working with a faculty advisor to create its own bank account as an organization to qualify for university funding. The group is also considering doing its own fund raising for events in which everyone on campus is invited to attend.
  - The student retreat will be held in November and is open to all students.

#### E. Capital Campaign – Fr. Dan Oudenhoven

1. Fr. Dan began meeting with families; all parishioners were invited to a session Sept. 13 in the evening with twenty families attending.
2. The Diocesan Capital Campaign goal is \$40 million; Newman has a target of \$455,000 over five years. Thirteen families have already committed \$130,000.
3. Of the \$40 million, 65% will go to support parishes, 15% will be for the Diocesan Annual Appeal for 2022-2023 (a separate appeal will not be done), 12.5% will be capital improvements of the Holy Cross Diocesan Center, and 7.5% will go to create a Catholic Foundation of West Central Wisconsin.
4. Newman's portion will go to increase the Newman Endowment. Currently the endowment has \$550,000 in assets. The goal will be to raise the

endowment to one million dollars which would provide \$40,000 a year for parish needs. The Newman Endowment is overseen by a board of parishioners.

5. Response has been generally supportive so far.

F. Discussion Items

1. Interest was expressed in having a daytime Newman Small Group which would meet on weekdays. This might be attractive to retired parishioners.
2. Regarding the Peace and Justice Committee, there was discussion on the difference between a “committee” and “group” and how each might function.
3. On whether Masses will resume at Sacred Heart Hospital, Fr. Dan indicated that at present there is a policy requiring masks be worn in the hospital and the policy may be extended due to flu season approaching. Therefore, until the mask mandate is relaxed, Masses will continue to be held at the Ecumenical Religious Center.
4. There was discussion on how best to involve more stationary and student parishioners in various service groups. Fr. Dan recommended personal invitations as the most effective method. The first Service Saturday for both stationary members and college students will be this Saturday and involve cleaning gravestones at the Sacred Heart/St. Patrick’s Cemetery.
5. Interest was expressed in comparing the number of students who participate in parish activities in prior years to this year as the FOCUS leaders begin their work.
6. There was a question about whether the council is an advisory or governing body and it is a consultive body according to the Diocese.
7. There was a question regarding health aspects of distributing Communion on the tongue. The Church gives both options: on the hand or on the tongue and it’s up to the Bishop to restrict either option.

G. Closing Prayer – Fr. Dan Oudenhoven

Minutes submitted by Pat Solfest