

St. John Neumann Pastoral Council

March 18, 2015 @ 7:00pm

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approval of January Minutes

3. New Business
 News from Family Promise – guest: Aida Galarza

4. General News and Status
 - 4.1 Update on Marian Chapel Campaign / Financial Report (Mike)
 - 4.2 Update on Archdiocese Pastoral Plan
 - 4.3 Family Formation & Outreach Ministries (Fr. Sunny)

5. Old and Continuing Business
 - 5.1 Spotlight Committee Report (Ann)
 - 5.2 Comisión Hispana Report (Adela & Luis)
 - 5.3 Liturgical Council (Pat Hodges)
 - 5.4 Stewardship Committee Report (Tom)
 - 5.5 Specific/Immediate Ministry Issues and Needs
 - 5.6 Gus Lloyd visit update (Jeff)
 - 5.7 Translation devices (Donald)
 - 5.8 Reinvigorate Prison Ministry (Matt)

6. Other Items of Concern or Interest to the Council

7. Prayer & Adjournment

Council Members

PRESENT: Fr. Sunny, Donald Cote (Chair), Cathy Karlsen (Chair-Elect), Ann Basile, Tom Studer (Stewardship Council Rep), Deacon Mike Hayward, Mike Evans (Financial Council Rep), Buihe Okenu, Pat Hodges (Liturgical Council Rep), Luis Cardenas, Jeff Newman, Matt Champagne (Secretary), Aida Galarza (Guest). ABSENT: Adela Duran

PROCEEDINGS

1. OPENING PRAYER

Donald led us in the Marian Chapel prayer.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of January minutes was postponed. The Council did not meet in February.

3. NEW BUSINESS

News from Family Promise

Aida returned to give an update on the Family Promise ministry. SJN was named a Host church in January now that we have secured space in the Catholic Charities building (thanks Deacon Bill!). Aida provided some history and background on the Family Promise of Gwinnett County organization (see www.familypromisegwinnett.org for more information and contact) as well as the need for this help.

As of early April we have 40 people signed up to help in hosting the families and still hope to get 50-60 people to adequately prepare meals, setup/tear down and all the work needed. Training for the ministry will be held April 16 (SJN Quad) and April 26 (All Saints Lutheran Church). Volunteers are urged to go to this website to learn more and to sign up: <http://goo.gl/wBxDRj>

An updated report from Aida is on Page 6. In short, more volunteers are needed!

4. GENERAL NEWS AND STATUS

4.1 Update on Marian Chapel Campaign (Mike)

Good news! We have secured sufficient pledges and donations to move forward and have already secured a verbal agreement from the Archdiocese to begin hiring contractors. Total of pledges, donations and payments of memorial pavers is approximately \$770,000 as of this meeting date. We plan to offer a second round of memorial pavers to purchase in the Fall.

4.2 Update on Archdiocese Pastoral Plan

Fr. Sunny distributed copies of the Initiative List and Recommendations and gave a brief background. These initiatives are: (1) Knowing Our Faith, (2) Living Our Faith, (3) Spreading Our Faith, and (4) Evolution of Our Parishes. Father will begin introducing the Pastoral Plan to all members of the parish, forming a parish team to prioritize recommendations, and creating implementation teams to review current practices, develop needed new approaches and share the results with other parishes. Much more to come over the upcoming months.

4.3 Family Formation & Outreach Ministries (Fr. Sunny)

The three recommendations on the Pastoral plan for “Knowing Our Faith” are:

1. Move to a family formation model to emphasize parents’ role in faith formation
2. Prioritize adult catechesis
3. Offer more opportunities to participate in parish life as a family

To address these initiatives, Father has created two ministries: Family Formation and Outreach Ministries. SJN has already provided many opportunities to “Know Our Faith” and implemented several programs over the past year so we are well down the road already.

The Council was enthusiastic: Aida said Family Promise addresses family formation and outreach ministries. Tom thought the newly created Men’s Group was a good illustration of these ministries. Donald said that he and others on the Council would help. Father had also thought the Parish Council should take the lead with the Stewardship Committee to coordinate as well as PSR and the Liturgical Council. Although the Archdiocese will not have the guidelines prepared until December and a formal plan will soon replace the 6-page draft that was distributed at the meeting, our Parish will not make great progress in the meanwhile.

5. OLD and CONTINUING BUSINESS

5.1 Spotlight Committee: SUPPORT (Ann)

Ann highlighted the good work and the needs of each committee within the Support Ministries. Be sure to read the full report is on Pages 4 and 5.

5.2. Comisión Hispana (Luis)

Luis reviewed the past events and successes in the various Hispanic Ministries (see full report on Page 8). He gave a very moving account of the Christ Revive His Parish retreat that was held the previous weekend. Yet another perfect example of Family Formation and Outreach. A similar women’s retreat is upcoming.

5.3. Liturgical Council (Pat)

The Altar Flower ministry reported that there will be no altar flowers on weekends that are not sponsored by parishioners via a \$65 donation. It was suggested that a second basket collection could be taken up but church funds won’t be used to pay for the arrangements. Other news including Easter mass times are shown in her full report on Page 9.

5.4 Stewardship Committee (Tom)

For Easter, we want to have our welcoming commitment out in force. Debbie Kosciolk also needs the help of PC members. Let her know what Mass you are attending. Tasks needed to cover include: (1) Handing out books we have at Easter Mass, (2) Jellybeans story on screen before Easter Mass with jellybeans handed out after/ like candy cane Christmas; (3) Retreat March 30 and 31 (4) Committee appreciation Mass and gift, and (5) Kick off for committee in August

5.5 Specific/Immediate Ministry Issues and Needs

Buihe's Discipleship ministries had no immediate needs and her full report is on Page 7.

Donald reminded the Parish Council that the next Table of Fellowship is April 25 and would we remind our committees and make plans to attend. Upcoming gatherings will be in August and October.

5.6 Gus Lloyd visit update

We have firm date of October 10 for Gus Loyd to deliver a day-long seminar on "magnetic Christianity". We will need many volunteers to help promote the event within and outside our parish and to make it a smooth day.

5.7 Translation devices

Donald described the logistics required to secure the translation devices and an interpreter for the upcoming Lenten mission

6. OTHER ITEMS OF CONCERN OR INTEREST TO THE COUNCIL

Jeff and Paul Hayes are leading the new men's group at St. John Neumann: "That Man Is You!". Fr. Sunny has given approval to form the core group to prepare to register the parish on April 1. The group will meet on Fridays at 5:45am to begin September 11. We are hoping to get 100 men as members - fathers with younger kids are ideal - and need about 10 men to serve as core team leaders. To learn more, visit www.paradisusdei.org/index.php/programs/tmiy/learn-more

There will be one opening on the Parish Council for the upcoming year.

Father will talk more about the Family Synod next month. Dr. Phillip Thompson, Executive Director of The Aquinas Center of Theology will visit our parish in May.

7. ADJOURNMENT AND PRAYER

Fr. Sunny led us in closing prayer. The next meeting is April 15 at 7pm.

Ministry Reports - March 2015

* SPOTLIGHT* Support Organizations: Ann

Archives Photography

Contact person, Jim Ollick, is correct on website. Though he lives in Grayson, Jim comes to SJN because his brother Greg is a deacon here. He has a "long list" of responders - people who have volunteered to help shoot events - but only two respond regularly, and one of them now works on Sundays. He has a big need coming up shortly: First Communion pictures. The church has asked that each set of parents not come up to the altar to photograph their child, so the ministry does this. But the First Communion ceremonies are spread out among several Masses and it's difficult for him to get to all of them. What's the best way of helping him? He said many groups, for example the Women's Bible Study, take their own photographs and submit them to the website. This is fine with him. He hasn't heard any complaints about pictures not being taken. He's really more involved with shooting the rites of passage in the church than the social activities, though he does attend and photograph the dinner/ dances and the Fall Festival.

Bulletin Design

Contact person, Michelle Pendergrass, is correct on website. Michelle works closely with Mary Lou Schwaner and Carmen Neris in gathering information for each issue of the bulletin. Carmen's help makes a bilingual product possible. Ads get emailed to her and she does the layout each week. She works a week ahead so that there is time for assembly, printing and occasional stuffing before distribution beginning with the Saturday Vigil Mass. Michelle said she is not in need of help presently.

Collection Counters

This ministry is listed on the printout of ministries that was distributed to the Pastoral Council. I learned two things: the contact person is no longer in that position and this group is under the Finance Council, but is not to be contacted by the Pastoral Council for reports. They are not and should not be listed on the website. Thanks to Deacon Bill Marten for his guidance.

Facebook Page

Contact person, Nancy Fadeley, is correct on website. Nancy maintains the FB page for SJN and for Life Teen. She feels that she's active enough in the parish to know when and what to post. She hasn't heard any complaints. If she becomes aware that people want more information posted, she would consider asking for help.

Grounds Beautification Ministry

Contact person, Jane Trentin, is correct on website. The core of this group is made up of four Master Gardeners. Over time, they've been joined by others (currently 5) who simply enjoy digging in the dirt. There is a landscape service responsible for mowing the grass and pruning the trees. The ministry puts in and maintains plantings, waters, mulches, fertilizes and pulls lots of weeds. Jane organizes the projects and work days. She keeps a spare pair of gloves in her car if for anyone who may want to join in spontaneously. Please take Weeds 101 orientation from her before pulling. Paul Hayes and Bill Marten are very helpful with requests. Jane would like for the church to consider a switch from the present landscape service for two reasons: their indiscriminate use of weed killer that has killed several plantings and a perceived lack of communication between what she asks for and what is done. She would like to suggest Deacon Mike's company.

Office Volunteers

Contact person, Skip Holland, is correct. Volunteers sign on to work one 3 hour shift per month, morning or afternoon; you can certainly give more time if you have it. Shifts are filled one month at a time on a first come/first served basis. Skip noticed while we were talking that the number of unfilled shifts has increased over the past couple of months, so he will ask Mary Lou to ask for help in the bulletin. The main duty of the

office volunteers is answering the phone ... helping a parishioner with information or being the friendly first impression to someone outside the church.

Website

I am waiting to hear from the contact person, Paul Suwak. His email on the printout, which I was using, is different from his email on the website. I haven't had a reply from either email or by phone.

Catholic Charities Counseling at SJN

Catholic Charities is the only counseling service listed under the Counseling Ministry. As I recall from an earlier report, there is another Catholic-based counseling office in the area that seems to be preferred by many. I am wondering if that office should be approached to be another choice of referral for parishioners. I don't know how that works. Catholic Charities charges a sliding scale fee based on income, but no one is turned away for inability to pay. They are open a limited amount of time, based on volume of business. Currently they are open for appointments on Wednesdays only. Dunia Lobo needs to be removed as a contact person. Eglee Treber remains a contact person and the other contact is Jamie Lackey. Her phone is 770-790-3102 and her email is jlackey@catholiccharitiesatlanta.org. Eglee's email is etreber@catholiccharitiesatlanta.org. The office phone, 404-920-7745, is listed correctly on the website.

Knights of Columbus

The contact is incorrect on the website. The current contact is Ed Reyes, edreyes929@yahoo.com, 770-985-0018. I can report that they are having their fabulous Lenten Friday Fish Fries, so be sure to support them. They also have a breakfast service at Killian Hall the first Sunday of every month and put on several dinners during the year for fellowship and fundraising. The most recent was last night's St. Paddy's Day Dinner. Killian Hall, their meeting place, is for sale and has a potential buyer, so they may soon be looking for a new space to call home.

Scouts

SJN charters Cub Scout Pack 522 and Boy Scout Troop 522. The SJN website lists the correct contacts for the Boy Scouts and provides a link to Troop 522's website, which is very informative. Neither of the two replied to my email or call. The Cub Scout contact, Andrew Harmon, is correct as listed. He explained to me the great need for adult volunteers. He said that there are several unfilled positions. It is apparent that not all of the boys who participate have a parent who is willing and able to volunteer. Might there be some male Hilltoppers who could help? I don't know the solution.

The Girl Scout contact, Leanne Wright, is correct, but the email on the printout and on the website differ. I believe the website-listed address is preferred: wrightones@aol.com. If anyone contacts Leanne with a daughter who is interested in scouting, she will find a troop for them. Currently the girls are in their last week of cookie sales and have no other projects to follow.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Leo Payne and Amy Krysiak reported at our November meeting, but I think some numbers Leo gave us are worth repeating. The first calendar year for the Food Pantry, which included seven months, was pretty amazing. They distributed 5,327 lbs. of meat; 12,080 lbs. of non-perishables and 1,417 lbs. of non-meat perishables for a total of 18,824 lbs. (9.4 tons) of goods. The market value of the distribution was estimated to be \$43,850! The average family size served was 3.4 persons. They had about 38 visits per month. They served roughly 6,500 meals. The Holiday Program, Angel Tree, was a great success. Over 100 families were served, giving them added blessings at Christmas.

St. Vincent de Paul Store

The contact person, Craig Moore, is correct on the website. He reported that the store received the normal influx of donations at the end of last year which makes for a good springtime stock. He is always open to new volunteers. On a personal note, I have two friends who work there and both find the work uplifting.

Discipleship: Buihe

Adult Evening Bible Study (Ann Hayes)

The Group has 2 more classes for this year and the attendance has been good. They will make a decision on next year's study this week.

Women's Catholic Bible Study (Judy Butterick and JoAnn Stoddard)

The WCBS is making plans for Year End Mass & Luncheon on 4/29. They have announced their study for 2015-2016 year...Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Sign up will start March 25th. They will be taking off Spring Break following the Gwinnett County School calendar.

No Reports from any other Ministry Leader

Outreach: Jeff

SJN Family Promise ministry was officially kicked off the weekend of March 21 & 22. We had Chuck Ferraro, the director of Family Promise of Gwinnett to speak at most of the masses. A short video was presented to the parishioners and tables for info were manned in the church Narthex.

We have about 40 folks who signed up to help in hosting the families that will be at the Neumann Center the weeks of May 31-June 7 and August 16-23. At our Family Promise meeting this past Sunday, we learned that several teens have offered to help. We will have tables in the piazza and in the lower church this weekend to provide info to those that were not able to get it during the kick-off weekend.

Our next meeting will be May 3. Training for FP ministry will be held on Thursday, April 16th 7-9pm in the SJN Quad or Sunday, April 26th 12-2pm at All Saints Lutheran Church, 722 Rockbridge Road. We still need more helpers and donations to achieve our ministry goal of hosting 4 families at the Neumann Center. St. Vincent de Paul ministry will be helping with some food and item donations. Website for volunteers: <http://goo.gl/wBxDRj>

***We need more help, perhaps from a ministry that would like to host a meal or help with set up or provide donated items for families.**

RCIA for Children

March 22nd is the last class for this year's RCIC and it will be our retreat day. There are 11 children in the class but so far only 7 of them will receive the two sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist at SJN. Two will receive them in Mexico and two in Alabama. Also, this is the last year Cathy will be teaching the children the program.

Update from Mickie Ferrante unassociated with commission:

On April 25th our parish is hosting a meeting of El Cingulo, at 10:00 a.m. El Cingulo is a group of Catholic women who spiritually adopt a priest as a spiritual son. The meeting is to explain to the women what they do as spiritual mothers - the meeting will be followed by a Mass commissioning all those who accept the obligation of what they we are expected to do. Women are coming from the following parishes; Corpus Christi, Our Lady of the Americas, St Marguerites, St Oliver Plunketts, St Stephan the Martyr, St Thomas Moore, and, of course, St John Neumann.

Responded/No Updates:

- EM to sick/homebound
- Special meals and priest meals
- Cancer Sewing

COMISIÓN HISPANA REPORT: Adela & Luis

Dear brothers and sisters, God loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son....and the world has never been the same. All we do, say, think, is charged with the Presence of the Son of God. Let us be proud of Him, even if it means giving up our life for Him. And let us strive, during Lent and always, to make Him and His Kingdom more a part of our lives. May our Stewardship Commitment grow more and love Him, through our neighbor, even more. Since our last report, all our Hispanic community keeps working as last months, some ministries added more members.

- Eucharistic Ministry added new more members.
- Christ Revive His Parish men just had a great retreat this past weekend with a complete success.
- RCIA in Spanish are getting ready for their sacraments.
- Effective January as it was done last year, all ministries are taking turns doing food sales after mass; all precedes goes to our BLF.
- CRSP have weekly motivational speakers to help grow in faith.
- Lent season is bringing so much hope and enthusiasm to our parishioners.
- Big thank you for including the missal Hispanic books, highly appreciated by everyone.

Events to Come

- CRSP women retreat coming at the end of April.
- Keep collecting funds for BLF.

Finance Council: Mike

2nd Quarter Report for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 (October 1 – December 31, 2014)

- **Revenue vs. Expenses:**
 - For the first six months of the fiscal year Offertory collections came in the same as the previous year.
 - Expenditures were 1.6% higher than the previous year.
 - The church continues to manage cash flow well and is meeting all necessary expenses.
- **Marian Chapel Campaign:**
 - For the second quarter the church shifted the focus of the BLF and Marian Chapel campaign collections from paying down the debt to accumulating the cash needed to begin construction of the chapel.
 - The debt balance remains at \$300K.
 - As of January 25th the accumulated cash is \$355K.
 - Catholic Construction will begin seeking bids from general contractors.
- **2015 Archdiocese Annual Appeal**
 - The 2015 Archdiocese Annual Appeal kicked off in February.
 - Anything collected over our goal is returned to the parish.
 - For 2014 we exceeded our goal by \$20K.

Liturgical Ministries: Pat

At our last Liturgy Meeting, we went through all of the Holy Week scripts and made a few adjustments.

We clarified that the Mass Schedule for Triduum is:

(No morning Masses Thurs thru Saturday!)

Holy Thursday – 7pm

Good Friday – Tre Ore from noon-3pm; Liturgy of the Passion of Christ – 7pm

Saturday – NO confessions!; Easter Vigil Mass – 8:30 pm

Easter Sunday Masses: 7am/9am/11am/ 1pm in Spanish/ (NO 5pm Sunday Mass)

There will be a rehearsal for Holy Thursday and Good Friday liturgies **for Clergy, Sacristans, and Ushers** on Monday morning, March 30th at 9:45 am in the Church. Anyone who has specific questions or logistics issues may come.

The rehearsal for Easter Vigil for Clergy, Sacristans, and Ushers will be on Holy Saturday, April 4th at 9:00 am in the Church. The RCIA Team and Candidates for Sacraments will rehearse at 10:00 am.

Ushers are asked to take careful head counts of both English and Spanish crowds all three evenings and at all Easter Masses.

*It was suggested that we provide an overflow Mass in Reynolds Hall at 11am, since it was so packed last year. However, it was discussed that only on years where Easter fall outside of “Spring Break” for the schools does that 11am Mass need overflow seating. Last year was one of those years. It was packed and overflowing! **THIS YEAR**, however, Easter falls during Spring Break. **So we will collect careful data this year** to compare what the numbers are like on a “spring break” Easter. **NO OVERFLOW MASS** this year.