

St. John Neumann Pastoral Council

February 17, 2016 @ 7:00pm

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Discussion/Approval of January Minutes
3. New Business
 - Young Adult Ministry** projects (our guest is Robert Snipes)
 - Laudato Si:** Next steps to the Archbishop's action plan (our guest is Susan Varlamoff)
4. Updates & Continuing Business
 - Updates to Ministry Coordinators list
 - Marian Chapel Campaign (Todd)
5. Commission & Council Reports
 - Comisión Hispana Report (Adela)
 - Liturgical Council (Pat)
 - Stewardship Committee Report (Tom)
 - Specific/Immediate Ministry Issues and Needs (All)
6. Other Items of Concern or Interest to the Council
7. Closing Prayer

Council Members

PRESENT: Father Sunny, Cathy Karlsen (Chair), Deacon Mike Hayward, Pat Hodges (Liturgical Council Rep), Ann Basile, Tom Studer (Stewardship Council Rep), Luis Cardenas, Buihe Okenu, Mike MacFarlane, Jeff Newman, Matt Champagne (Secretary)

ABSENT: Todd Pull (Financial Council Rep)

PROCEEDINGS

1. OPENING PRAYER

We recited the Pope Francis Prayer.

2. DECEMBER MINUTES

Distributed last month for approval. January meeting was cancelled due to weather.

3. NEW BUSINESS

“On the care of our Mother Earth our Common Home” (the Archbishop’s action plan)

Our guest, Susan Varlamoff, described how her Action Plan team went through the Pope’s Encyclical and created a list of tasks and ideas that parishioners could put into practice. These tasks were categorized by degree of difficulty (difficult/medium/easy) in order to have something for all. Here are the major topics and a few sample tasks for each:

Energy Conservation and Efficiency

- Calculate your home’s carbon footprint
- Consider solar energy system
- Use the outdoors efficiently, especially for cooling the house and drying clothes

Purchasing and Recycling

- Embrace simple living
- Use supplies made from natural, recycled or recyclable materials

Buying and Sharing Food

- Eat lower on the food chain (fruits and vegetables)
- Compost food scraps
- Avoid drinking bottled water
- Grow food in your backyard, schoolyard, or parish garden

Transportation

- Consider driving an alternate-fueled or highly fuel-efficient car
- Be mindful of vacation travel and its carbon footprint

Water Conservation

- Taking shorter showers
- Upgrade your plumbing
- Reconsider your landscaping

Creating Sustainable Landscapes

- Reduce lawn size
- Become a Georgia Master Gardener
- Create a wildlife habitat

Susan said the next step is to form a Parish volunteer “green team” to prioritize the list above. She said we would need Facilities on board and create a budget. Fr. Sunny agreed to her request to promote the green team in the bulletin, through the ministries, and from the pulpit.

Funds are available from various foundations and granting agencies and Susan was willing to volunteer on the grant writing. Cathy suggested Susan give an announcement at Mass and she said yes.

A long discussion ensued with many questions. A summary of the answers:

- Yes, other parishes are involved in this.
- Power companies do free energy audits
- Grants <\$10K for energy improvements
- Yes we should get recyclable bins
- Yes there are many examples of SJN parish and SJNRCS the school taking action (e.g., school gardens, recycling, “guards” at events to assist in recycling)

Fr. Sunny approved the following message to be circulated among the pastoral council members in support and to promote the “Green Team” for our parish:

For Lent this year, Archbishop Gregory is calling on all parishes and parishioners to care for the earth and one another based on the Action Plan for Pope’s Encyclical Laudato Si. The Action Plan, developed by University of Georgia scientists, lists ways parishes and parishioners can care for God’s creation. Some actions are simple and inexpensive and some more complex and expensive giving us all some way to contribute. One of the authors of the Action Plan is parishioner Susan Varlamoff who has offered to help us set up a “Green Team” to launch this project. If you would like to be part of this exciting Team, please contact her at svarlamoff@comcast.net

UPDATE (March 11). Fr. Sunny: The “green team” which Susan would coordinate, has already many members signed up. There will be an information drive on the action plan from the pulpit probably on the weekend of May 7-8. Details are being worked out.

Young Adult Ministry

Our guest, Robert Snipes, introduced himself as the Young Adult Leader tasked with re-establishing the Ministry that had been initiated in September 2013 but had since disbanded. The YAM is intended for adults in their 20s and 30s (single or married) to learn and share their faith and to serve and share God's love within the parish community and beyond. They host weekly events, including Mass, small group studies, service opportunities and social events that build community.

They plan to meet on the first Thursday of each month in the Marian Chapel for Mass followed by dinner and a bible study. On the third Monday of each month the group gathers for “Theology on Tap” – meeting at a restaurant for discussion and perhaps a guest speaker.

YAM will co-host SJN Trivia Night on April 22 in Reynolds hall. Proceeds will benefit the YAM and LifeTeen.

The Council agreed to encourage their ministries to promote the Young Adult Ministry.

4. UPDATES & CONTINUING BUSINESS

Updates to Ministry Coordinators Lists

Cathy confirmed with Mary Lou that the newest ministries have been assigned on the Commissions list:

- Prison Ministry and Family Promise: Outreach Commission
- Men of Faith and Young Adults and T.O.O.L. (Team of Our Lady): Discipleship Commission
- Note that Hilltoppers are now back on the Fellowship Commission (Terri Kucharzyk being the contact person)

Marian Chapel Campaign - no update this month

5. COMMISSION & COUNCIL REPORTS

Comisión Hispana Report (January)

Brothers and sisters: What a Christmas Season it has been. After celebrating the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, the Baptism of the Lord officially closes the Christmas Season, but, no, it's not over. As a matter of fact, it is just beginning and now we are called to go out, to evangelize, as Pope Francis reminds us, messengers of the hope and mercy that only Jesus can give. We begin the Ordinary Time, which requires prayer on our part; it means we have to listen more than speak; and it means we need to identify, recognize, and use our gifts.

Our Hispanic Ministries works on several reasons:

- * *To give our entire faith community a chance to thank those who give so much of themselves, so our parish can function effectively and so we can be an important part of our community.*
- * *Advent retreat with Father Juan Guerra.*
- * *To learn about what we do to be a stewardship community. Neva to Our Lady of Guadalupe had excellent organization.*
- * *Posadas from different countries had good participation from the community.*
- * *In hopes that each of us, young and old, full time resident or seasonal resident, might consider ways to be involved in the life of the parish community.*
- * *Everyone looking forward to a new year 2016 with our new Marian Chapel.*

The whole purpose of our lives is to seek and ascertain what it is that the Lord is telling us. We all understand that is not easy, and for many of us becomes a lifelong quest.

Liturgical Council Report (January)

Our January meeting covered after-action for the Christmas season. Masses were well attended. The 4pm had over 1100 people, 6pm about 936, 10pm had over 465, and 10am had close to 625. No counts were available for the Spanish Masses.

We discussed the needs for the Chapel dedication. We will do a live-feed broadcast from the chapel into the church. Seating in the Chapel will be by invitation only. Everyone will receive the Eucharist in the Chapel. Ushers will be given instructions for this process.

First reading will be proclaimed in Spanish, the Psalm will be sung and the Second reading and Gospel will be in English. All Choirs were invited to participate and will sing and be lead from the Church. There will be no Offertory collection. There might be a basket put out for donations. Many Welcome ministers and ushers will be needed to greet, pass out programs (video will be on so no words can be displayed), and assist with questions about seating. Everyone will sit in main church unless they have received an invitation.

*A full dress rehearsal will be held on WED. FEB 3, at 6PM. All involved are required to attend. *The Hispanic Community will have a special Mass on Saturday after the 5PM mass, so that all may attend a first liturgy in Spanish.*

It will be a busy weekend. Friday, Feb.5 is the dedication. Sat. Feb. 6th is the Deanery Formation day with Mass at 9am, followed by many presentations on the campus.

Liturgical Council Report (February)

There was no February meeting due to the Chapel dedication. The Liturgical Council has a busy month with the upcoming Penance Service, Healing Mass with Fr. Ubal (March 15), Palm Sunday (March 20) and the Divine Mercy retreat.

Stewardship Committee Report

The Stewardship Committee has been busy planning the Parish picnic. It will be June 11 with Mass beginning at 4:00pm.

We are exploring the placement of a large display of Know/Live/Share Your Faith in the Narthex.

Specific/Immediate Ministry Issues and Needs (All)

See Reports on Pages 6-8. No immediate needs were discussed. Buihe observed that the activity of the Catholic Women's Bible Study was noted in a recent homily.

6. OTHER ITEMS OF CONCERN OR INTEREST TO THE COUNCIL

Fr. Sunny: The first Safe Environment (VIRTUS) training for the staff and employees will be conducted at St. John Neumann on the 19th of February. This training will include other parishes. [UPDATE from March 11: More than 40 participants attended]

7. CLOSING PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT

We will not meet next month (Holy Week) but will convene Wednesday April 20, 2016 at 7pm.

Ministry Reports – February 2016

Discipleship: Buihe

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

WCBS has added 3 new members since returning in January. We were off the week of ASH WEDNESDAY but the Facilitators had their once a year Luncheon at Imperial Chinese Restaurant on Monday, 2/8. We ran into several SJN members having lunch there, also.

The Hospitality Committee is working hard on the WCBS 15th Year-End Luncheon on 4/27. Save the Dates invites have been mailed to the priests of the ten parishes who have members represented in WCBS. Invites have also been mailed to women who made up the first group of facilitators who are no longer participants due to work or moving. The Core Team has been busy reviewing study for the WCBS 2016-2017 year. We hope to announce study sometime in March as we use the Shared Wisdom Model in our decisions. WCBS continues to appreciate the generosity of SJN for their ministry.

No Reports

Adult Evening Bible Study (Ann Hayes)

Advent by Candlelight (Mary Lou Schwaner)

Dynamic Catholic Book Club (Mary Lou Schwaner)

Prayer Chain/Warriors (Janet Adkins)

Rosary Cenacle Prayer Group (Anne Feaster)

Small Faith Communities (Lenten Longings) (Mary Lou Schwaner)

Seven Deadly Sins/Seven Lively Virtues: (Mary Lou Schwaner)

Lord, Teach Me to Pray - Faith Groups (Chris Rowe, Terri Kucharzyk, and Mary Lou Schwaner)

Adult Education Classes/Faith Formation (Deacon Greg Ollick)

Cursillo/Ultreya (Jeff Carr)

Divine Mercy Prayer Group (Laura Whittington)

Donuts & Discipleship (Mary Lou Schwaner)

Catechism Café (Cath. Adult Faith Enrich.) (Mary Lou Schwaner)

Support: Ann

Photography Ministry (Jim Ollick)

We photographed the Confirmation Mass and chapel dedication. Photos are on the parish website and the dedication video done by Bob Deveau is on the SJN YouTube channel.

St. Vincent dePaul (Leo Payne)

"1). Many of our less fortunate neighbors are trapped in poverty by the lack of access to capital and the high cost of capital when they do have access. This a terrible cycle that helps keep the poor down.

The SVdP Loan Conversion Program is intended to help break that cycle. Teaming with Associated Credit, the Atlanta Council (statewide SVdP) and local conferences the high interest rate loan will be paid off and a new loan will be issued. The interest rate savings could be a great as the difference between an old loan at 40% and a new loan at 9%. There is some level of risk as the loans are guaranteed. However, it is perceived the rewards far outweigh risk.

The SJN Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society has agreed to be a pilot conference for the new SVdP Loan Conversion Program. SJN-SVdP is one of only five pilot conferences in the State of Georgia. This is quite noteworthy to be held in such confidence. If the pilot is successful the Program will be initiated statewide.

SJN-SVdP is excited about the possibility of instituting a systemic change to poverty in the Lilburn area and potentially statewide. We are developing guidelines for our conference participation and client selection process. And, we are searching for potential clients.

2). SJN-SVdP held an Information Meeting on January 12 and picked up 7 new people. There are about 7 more interested that could not attend. We are still in need of more caseworkers. This is a very difficult position to recruit.

3). Amy previously reported on the success of the Holiday Program. However, it should be noted that she ran this program while being the highest volume caseworker. Amy will recruit more outside the conference help next year for the Holiday Program.

4). The Food Pantry is continuing to be a big success. We are experiencing an increase in walk-in clients. But no one is turned away. Last night we handed out food to two single parent walk-ins. They were timid on arrival, but joyful on leaving. Hugs and prayers abound in this ministry. The smiles are big on both sides of the counter. We also have been handing out religious books, prayer cards, and love. We are out of our Matthew Kelly books. Also, Jim Moorman installed some extra outside lighting for safety.

5). SVdP was a partner in the Clark Howard Christmas Program this year. SJN-SVdP was a participant on a small basis. We will increase our participation next year."

Office Volunteers (Skip Holland)

Office volunteers need help! We've lost a lot of folks due to health problems. Going to advertise in bulletin for folks.

Outreach: Jeff

Family Promise - They resume monthly core team meetings Sunday, February 14. For 2016, they're hosting one week in June, one week in August, and also overseeing at the Day Center each first Sunday of the month from 9am - 1pm. If we have more people who want to be involved at the Day Center, we could expand our commitment to the first Sundays of the month to 9am - 5pm.

ESL - continues to serve the community well. Their last class day for the winter/spring semester will be March 17. They are thankful for Cathy Karlsen, Reynold Mason, and Paul Stoffle who have joined their ministry and helped to substitute teach as needed. Our class sizes have dwindled due to weather and other factors that have prevented students from regular attendance. However, this happens every year and is not unusual. We have added 5 students since the beginning of the program in August.

The SMILE Race Committee is in full planning mode for the 6th Annual SJN SMILE 5K and One Mile Walk. The event will be held on Saturday, April 30 at Lilburn City Park. They will have sign up weekends on April 9-10, April 16-17 and April 23-24. Father Sunny is expected to defend his Clergy Title again this year. As always, 100% of the race proceeds go to SMILE. Last year they paid for a client media room in their offices. The year before they purchased a 15 passenger bus for SMILE.

Bereavement - The next bereavement group is scheduled to start on Monday, March 7th at 7PM. Notice will be going to surrounding churches and into our bulletin.

Cancer sewing – no updates

EM to Homebound – no updates

MARCH UPDATE:

The SMILE Race Committee has been in full planning mode for the race. Attached is our information brochure and registration form.

Special Needs Ministry - had their last respite of the fall and spring season Saturday with a "Breakfast For Dinner" St. Patrick's Day theme. They will start up again in September. Scott would like to thank all those that kept the ministry in their prayers and volunteered at their events. Their guests had so much fun and turn outs were awesome. Jessie Moreau has grown her Saturday morning Religious Ed and respite for their young kids from 4 to 9 and *could use some help* if anyone is interested. She will continue through May and the classes are twice a month, on Saturday mornings at 10am and last about an hour and a half, see Jessie if you would like to help. There will be a break for spring and summer and then she'll start up again in the fall. They are really happy to see this class grow. Rebecca Valdez has been hosting information seminars for parents and caregivers ranging from services available in finance and social services to schools, day programs, horseback riding therapy and beauty pageants. This program has really enlightened and helped a lot of people. Please take some time to check them out on line at the SJN website. If you or anyone you know have any questions, need help or just want to talk about your special needs child or sibling, please contact their ministry, they are

here to do whatever it takes to give you peace of mind through Christ. In closing, we gladly accept donations to keep our wheels churning, if anyone would like to help us out, please contact Rebecca Vladez, Kathy Laskodi or Scott.

ESL - classes will finish the winter semester on March 17. The ministers will be on break until August 14 when registration for new classes will begin. They hope to continue to offer 5 levels as in this past year but they *need ministers to help teach and assist*. There are a few teachers leaving the ministry that will need to be replaced. They have contacted Jason Gambon to see if they can work out childcare help for parents taking classes. Teens need volunteer hours and ESL Ministry needs help with childcare. Many people who wanted to take classes cannot because of childcare needs. Hopefully, they can coordinate these two ministries so that together both can better serve the Lord.

Need: Two ESL teachers use the computer-based projector in teaching their classes. There is only one projector available to use in the Quad area for all programs. It would be helpful to have another one available for all the ministries that utilize it. There were a few times when it was being used by other programs or it needed maintenance so it was not available. They hope to get more teachers to use this type of AV to enhance and enrich their classes.

Cancer Sewing - No meeting in March. Will reconvene in April.

Care Team - They've had a few more calls for assistance and had a good response from new volunteers. Please keep ad going in the bulletin for the care team.

Soldiers' Connection - They are waiting to see if more people will be coming home from Afghanistan and will determine what to do accordingly. In the meantime they continue sending boxes.

SMILE - In full planning mode for the race. Attached is the brochure / registration form.

Bereavement - Just launched eight week session on Monday nights.

Fellowship: Mike

None to Report