

St. Thomas More University Parish (Newman Center) Pastoral Council Minutes 11/13/18

Present: Fr. Peter, Sid, Ryan, Dianne, Kathy, Ryan (student)

7p – Volunteer scribe and approve minutes (can be viewed on <https://www.uonewman.org/pastoral-and-finance-councils.html>).

Kathy volunteered to take notes.

September minutes were approved unanimously.

7.05p – The vicariate meeting of pastoral council report – Kathy and Dianne.

Dianne and Kathy attended this meeting as representatives of Newman Center pastoral council. Pat Walsh from Newman Center was also there, in his capacity as Archdiocesan representative. Discussion centered on how vicariate parishes could work together to achieve archdiocesan priorities. There was general agreement about ideas such as sharing parish mailing lists, contact information, and news and events. Other jobs, for example, marriage preparation, where personal, ongoing contact is important, are perhaps better done on an individual parish level. Everyone present agreed that a high priority is needed in responding appropriately to the latest round of church sexual abuse scandals.

7.15p – Discussion and decision on kneelers.

After some discussion – we're agreed that Newman Center should be a worshipful and welcoming place - pastoral council recommended that the Newman Center purchase 40-80 chairs with detached kneelers so that parishioners who wish to kneel during Mass may do so.

7.30p – Possible topics and speakers from Thomistic Institute (check TI website for ideas: <https://soundcloud.com/thomisticinstitute>).

Fr. Peter welcomes suggestions from students and pastoral council about speakers and topics that would be of interest to Catholic students and other Newman Center parishioners, and also to the UO community. In the past Fr. Augustine Thompson and Sr. Helen Prejean have given well-attended talks. Perhaps social justice topics. Thomistic Institute has funds for speakers.

7.35p – Setting another date for Newman Center service/social justice day.

April 22 won't work. Perhaps move up to late February or a date during Lent? The idea is for the Newman Center to have a project or projects to work on as a community that day, or possibly on a series of dates, e.g., throughout Lent.

Sid will check with St. Vincent group about possible projects. Dianne will check with Catholic Community Services. Students already do projects with student groups. We will discuss further in January.

7.45p – Ways to make Newman Center more welcoming and hospitable.

Ryan reported that three years ago a survey of students indicated that some didn't feel welcome at the Newman Center, where other students seemed to all know each other already. The goal is IROC – Initiative/explicit welcome, Reach Out, Care. Students should feel that Newman Center is their place, and they are welcome to stop by and use the space. Students attending Sunday Mass should feel welcome. We brainstormed ideas about how current student leadership could help, e.g., by introducing themselves to new students, or meeting students in residence halls to walk over to Newman Center as a group. Projects where people work together are a good way to get for students to get to know each other.

7.55p – Next meeting is Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at 7p.

Fr. Peter reminds pastoral council to send him their bios.