

St. Albert the Great Newman Center Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes - 17 September 2015
Prepared by Scott Witt

Attending:

Fr. Alex
Ariana Contreras
Elaine Paredes
Rosemarie Sanchez
Scott Witt

Absent:

Fr. Ray
Audrey Valdez
Blanca Peña
Carlos Briseños
Eric Pfeifer
Paul Browne
Sylvia Bustillos

1. Opening prayer.

2. Motion to approve minutes from the previous meeting was made by Scott Witt; motion approved.

3. Old business:

a. Elaine updated the PC on BBQ planning, which is continuing apace. The BBQ will be at Holy Cross Retreat on 4 October, with Mass at 11 am. The Pastoral Council is providing volunteers to man the Volunteer Sign-in Table. Elaine has prepared a volunteer sheet for us

(attached to this email). Please let her know if you have an hour to spare on the 4th and help run the table.

b. Rosemarie updated us on Ministry Fair planning. We are currently planning the fair for two weekends: Jan 30/31 and Feb 6/7. It will be held in the parking lot near the east entrance to the church and possibly also on the lawn on the north side. A save-the-date email will be sent the first weekend in November. More details to follow.

c. Continuing discussion on the design of the new bulletin was tabled until we have more members present.

4. New Business

a. Elaine and Rosemarie have come up with an idea called Support our Seminarians. I asked Elaine for a more detailed description of what they have in mind. Here is her note to us:

"Dear Parish Council,

This is to introduce you to a Newman Parish initiative to support our seminarians, Ivan, Jeff, and Francis. When Francis was accepted into the diocese seminary program, he said that it takes a parish to support a seminarian. Our parish is ready for the challenge. Led by Father Ray, we have been reciting the prayer for vocations at *every single Mass*. Our prayers have helped form these young men. Our handshakes and hugs have encouraged them. Our smiles have uplifted them. Now that the three are at Trinity Seminary in Irving, Texas, we need to let them know that we are still behind them.

The Support Our Seminarians project would like to send Ivan, Jeff, and Francis a care box each month. Some months, it would be something spiritual--a prayer chain, or spiritual bouquet (or ristra), a parish prayer service, etc. Some months, it might be a food items--cookies, bread, snack mixes, drink mixes, etc. Some months, we might

send stuff--school supplies, toiletries, gift cards, etc. And some months, we might send cards and notes of encouragement. We welcome your suggestions.

This month we hope that the Pastoral Council will gather items to send to our seminarians. Next month, we will reach out to the whole parish. When Jeff was asked what he wanted most, he said, "green chile!" So Hatch chile and things uniquely Las Cruces, is our September theme. So far we have jars of different kinds of salsa, some green chile honey, chile peanut brittle, and organ mountain magnets. What else can you come up with? How about baking some chile brownies or chile cornbread/muffins or Hatch chile cookies (google it!). Use your imagination! Or stray from the theme, and send something you think the guys would like. We would like to send the box in a week. So if you would like to contribute something, please leave it in the office before Sept. 25. There will also be a card there; please come by and sign it. And if you would like to contribute a couple of bucks for postage, we would appreciate it.

Thank you for supporting our seminarians."

This is a terrific idea! Fr. Alex shared how this effort would be received based on his own experience at seminary. There is no downside! This would be a real quality-of-life improvement for our seminarians and sends a strong message of Parish support for those who may be thinking about a vocation.

The next regular Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for October 15th at 6:30 pm at The Bridge.

A closing prayer was said and the meeting was adjourned.