

Prayer

One thing everyone agreed on was the desire for a strong spiritual aspect to the monthly meetings. It is difficult in the day-to-day to find time for prayer, much less to drive to a chapel for Adoration or some quiet meditation.

To help with this the group will continue to have a Bible study/Lectio at the beginning. We will extend the prayer portion to be at least 30 minutes. Please note that you may also come for quiet prayer in the chapel just prior to the meeting. (Mass ends around 6:30 pm and the meeting starts at 7 pm) If anyone would like to schedule a Rosary, chaplet, or other organized prayer in the chapel before the meetings, let Trey know.

We will need a new leader for the Bible study for future meetings. If multiple people would like to volunteer we can rotate between leaders. Since for July we are encouraging alumni to attend the 6th Anniversary Dinner and Dance there will not be a formal meeting. That means the next time we will need a prayer leader will be in August.

Other ideas that were mentioned for prayer would be having Adoration specifically for the alumni, and for alumni that are out of town to possibly organize small group meet-ups in their local areas.



Mentoring & Continuing Education



Mentoring: A future goal of the group is for alumni to provide mentoring for current college students. It will take a bit of work to set this up so that people can connect effectively. This will likely be accomplished best by having the initial connection between alumni and student be made online. From there mentors could discuss with the student the best method of communication which could be by phone, e-mail, social media, skype/facetime, in-person and so on. We will continue to work towards implementing a system in future meetings.

A related goal is to allow the students to submit prayer requests to alumni and/or alumni would “adopt” a college student to pray for each semester.

Continuing Education: While discussing mentoring, it came up that alumni wouldn’t mind a little mentoring themselves. Be it financial concerns like budgeting, taxes, and insurance, or relationship issues such as how to deal with unchaste friends/coworkers, dating, or early marriage matters, that fact is high school and college might have left those details out of their lesson plans.

For those who are younger and local, the new Young Adult Ministry (YAM) group will have regular speakers and discussions dealing with topics like these. Talk with Jenny Lynn Pelzel if you would like more information jlpelzel08@gmail.com.

It was agreed continuing education would be good for the alumni group to provide as well. Since the group only meets once per month, perhaps we would lean more toward having longer format presentations. These might not be every meeting but instead will be offered as we find speakers that everyone would like to hear from.

Mission Statement

While the discussion might have gotten a little silly at times, we made some good headway into a mission statement for the St. John Paul II University Alumni Association.

The purpose of having a mission statement is to give the group a clear reason to continue. By clarifying the needs and desires of the group, we are able to move purposefully toward meeting those goals in a manner that is clear to all current and future members.

There is a website which lists many university alumni association's mission statements:

<http://www.alumnifutures.com/missions.html#s>

From this a few examples were selected and from those we took parts we liked, modified them, and placed them together. The mission statement we have thus far is as follows:

The mission of the alumni association is to support the mission of St. John Paul II University Parish, serve the needs of present students, and foster community between alumni of UNT, TWU, and local colleges. It is to be focused towards supporting the social, intellectual, and spiritual needs of all present and future alumni of St. John Paul II University Parish.

Please send comments or suggestions for the mission statement by replying to the Flocknote e-mail or sending an e-mail to untwualumni@gmail.com. They will compile the suggestions and we can work on finalizing the mission statement in an upcoming meeting, as well as adding a bulleted list of goals if desired.



Volunteering & Giving Back



Alumni are also finding it difficult to include an element of service in their daily lives so they would like this group to provide opportunities to give back. The parish will work with the alumni association to communicate the needs of the students and the community.

For July, the alumni association is invited to provide a basket for the silent auction. A list of possible themes can be voted on in the Flocknote or on the Facebook group.

Father Kyle suggested that another great opportunity would be for the alumni association to provide a meal during welcome week for the TWU students. This could be done through donations, or those local could prepare a meal, or a mix where some people donate and locals use that money to purchase food. In a few weeks, Trey will provide an update as to estimated cost and attendance as well as the date of the meal.

Some members might like to organize locally on occasion to volunteer at a soup kitchen, shelter, or other service like Habitat for Humanity. (Denton opportunities include Our Daily Bread and the Monsignor King Shelter) This, like the mentoring, will need to have a good communication system implemented so we will work toward that in the future.