

Worship Commission

St. Ignatius Church, San Francisco

Meeting Notes – January 8, 2003
Xavier Hall – 6:30 p.m.

In attendance: John Bitterman, Chairperson
Don Crean – Director of Liturgy
Jonathan Dimmock – Director of Music
Ofelia Alayeto
Barbara Bechelli
Kevin Boden
Maria Boden
Howard Case
Gerry Cofe
Wil Krekel
Theresa Murphy
Victoria Siu
Stephen St. Marie
Nick Rocchio

Chairperson Bitterman called the meeting to order, and Kevin Boden offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessings of the Christmas season and supplication for grace on our proceedings.

Chairperson Bitterman announced that Howard Case would serve as Secretary for the Worship Commission. John Bitterman & Stephen St. Marie will take notes.

The Order of Business was distributed and presented by Chairperson Bitterman.

- Review of Advent and Christmas Services
- Review of the Mission Statement for the Worship Commission
- The New Instruction for the Liturgy
- Planning for Lent and Easter
- Invitation to January 11 Parish Planning Meeting
- New Business

Review of Advent and Christmas Services

The Great O Service

The consensus of the commission was that this was a “beautiful” and “profoundly moving.” ceremony. Great credit was given to Jonathan for conceiving and producing this service.

The big disappointment was that there were far too few people in attendance.

- It was decided that this service should definitely become a yearly event at St. Ignatius, and great effort should be expended on how to schedule and promote the service to optimize attendance. A short discussion of ideas ensued: Catholic Weekly (Gerry), have the choir sing excerpts prior to the service (Theresa), schedule it on St. Nicholas Day (Wil), more announcements (John B), etc.

- **Future Commission Action Item** → It was decided sometime later to form a working committee to focus on this, and possibly other, services with an emphasis on promotion.
- **Future Commission Action Item** → A general idea grew from this discussion that it would be a good idea to publish a seasonal calendar of upcoming services. No specific action was taken to accomplish this, and it probably needs further study.

Reconciliation Service

The general consensus was that this was a successful service. Don and Vicki both complimented the Contemporary Ensemble for excellent music. Most thought that the candle ceremony was very appropriate. There were a few minor suggestions on improvements.

- Vicki suggested and it was agreed that we should promote this service in a way to encourage more families to attend.
- Gerry suggested that we might reduce the lighting in the church to more reflect the contemplative nature of the service.
- A discussion on the length of the service revealed the short 1st part was by design so that the congregation could stay when the pastor returns to the altar for the last part of the service.
- There were no action items for this service.

Advent Sundays

The commission was exuberant on the appearance of the church. “Stunning” Fabulous” Regarding the specifics of the Advent wreath and service, the following were discussed.

- The wreath was too low this year. Don explained that the wire used actually stretched, so it got lower as the season progressed. Also, the wire was too visible this year (white instead of green or black). Don will make note of this for next year.
- Don asked if we should start each of the Advent Sunday services under the wreath, and it was agreed that, yes we should so that we could place grater emphasis on Advent and wreath.
- *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*: with one exception (Nick), it was felt that it was an important and pivotal hymn for the Advent season.

Christmas Masses

In generally there was agreement that all of the Christmas services were beautiful and well presented for their intended audiences.

Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m.

This was a new service targeted at families with children.

Jonathan reported that 80 children sang at this mass and that it was a great event for families with their children. Don reported that the procession was “organized chaos,” but that it came off fine.

- One potentially difficult item that will need to be addressed next year: no provision was made for a bathroom monitor to accommodate the children to “couldn’t wait.”

- Howard mentioned that in some other parishes there are children's masses on Christmas with a completed acted pageant actually integrated into the mass. Others mentioned these as worthwhile. A discussion ensued looking into the possibility of organizing this at St. Ignatius. Jonathan mentioned that he has music for several children's Christmas pageants. No specific action was taken on this.
- **Possible Future Commission Action Item** → Consider the desirability and practicality of a children's Christmas pageant integrated into this Mass.

Christmas Eve 8:00 p.m.

This was a new service, featuring the Contemporary Ensemble and targeted at those not able to make the later service.

There was a very respectable showing (over 400) for this new service, and it was a "great time and a very nice mass" (Barbara & Vicki). The Contemporary Ensemble was given excellent comments.

It was agreed by the committee that we should add this service to our regular Christmas Eve offerings.

Christmas Eve 11:00 p.m.

By every account this was judged a beautiful and moving service, with particular emphasis on the musical accomplishments. There was particular praise for the pre-mass concert with the performance of the Bach *Christmas Oratorio* and the use of the strings to augment the singing at mass. It was noted that there was a smaller congregation than last year (no one occupied the choir loft), probably due to the added 8:00 p.m. service. There was, however, general agreement that people would have liked more carol singing. Some specific suggestions for next year:

- Incorporate more carol singing.
- After the concert and before mass end with carol singing to "warm-up" the congregation for singing at mass and get into the spirit. These last 2 or 3 carols should be very familiar and singable. (Kevin)
- More of the carols should be on the "A" list (Howard)
- We can get the time for more carol singing by eliminating the reciting of the poems (Kevin and generally endorsed).

Other Christmas Notes

Nick felt that the crèche is not optimally placed. The ensuing discussing felt that it was an appropriate location but that the lighting was very poor and should be improved.

Review of the Mission Statement for the Worship Commission

Thanks to the good work of Stephen St. Marie and Gerry Cofe, a draft of the *Worship Commission Mission Statement* was distributed and presented by Stephen. There was little discussion as

- **Action Item** → All Commission members are asked to submit comments to Stephen, Gerry and John Bitterman *prior to the next meeting*. For those Commission members not at the meeting, a copy of the draft is attached to these notes.
- **Commission Action Item** → Stephen and Gerry will present the final draft of Mission Statement for a vote at the next meeting.

The New Instruction for the Liturgy

We need to start integrating the New Instruction on the Liturgy as promulgated from Rome. Don is on the commission for the Dioceses discussing how and what to implement. It has pretty much been decided *what* we will implement, and he is asking our Commission's help on *how* to implement it.

Don reviewed the history of the new instruction, what are the motivations (reemphasize the role of the priest as representing Christ, is one of them) and then did a run-down on the things that will be changing or are specifically mentioned.

- The liturgical party should genuflect entering the sanctuary
- The psalm should not be replaced with another hymn
- The priest should not leave the sanctuary during the *Sign of Peace* (exceptions were noted)
- The *Fractioning Rite* (dividing the bread and wine into the vessels for distribution at Communion) has much new specificity on process which needs to be adapted to our service. This change will probably have the largest impact and will require some coordination with the choir and some new training of the Eucharistic Ministers.
- Following the *Angus Dei*, our Dioceses will adapt kneeling.
- The person receiving Communion is now asked to bow or show some other form of reverence to the Eucharist.

Don and the pastor have already devised a few methods to implement some of these changes with minimal impact. The Commission will discuss these and the other changes at a later meeting.

In order to prepare, copies of the series of articles by Sister Sharon McMillan were distributed and **Don is going to distribute "in persona Christi" to the Commission members.**

Action Item → Commission members should read the Sister Sharon articles and the "in persona Christi" and prepare for the discussion at the next meeting.

Invitation to January 11 Parish Planning Meeting

It was announced that there is a long-range planning meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 11, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., and he would like two members of the Worship Commission to attend. Stephen and Nick volunteered and will report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

New Business

Jonathan reported:

- The **Music Advisory Subcommittee** is up and running. It had its first meeting on December 18th and will be issuing regular reports to the Worship Commission. Its function is to act as an advisory body to Jonathan on matters musical for the parish.
- He also reported that the **Search Committee** (new Contemporary Ensemble leader) was temporarily suspended during the Christmas season and will soon start up again.

This launched a discussion of a few miscellaneous musical items:

- Chanting of the Gospel at a recent 9:30 mass did not work (Wil). This was affirmed by others. It caught people off-guard.
- The sung 3-part Gospel on the Feast of the Annunciation worked very well (Howard/Kevin).

It was generally agreed that when we institute a change like the sung gospel we should somehow prepare the congregation.

Planning for Lent and Easter

This item was moved to the end of the agenda.

Lent starts March 5.

To help us prepare, John said he had a copy of the Commission's notes from the meeting with last year's review of the Easter season's services. A copy is attached to these notes.

Don initiated a start of discussion with a question: *Should we have a theme for lent?*

What followed was a general brainstorming session with lots of ideas put forth. Most are listed below. It was decided at Kevin's suggestion that we needed more time for planning Lent/Easter than the monthly meetings would allow and **a meeting was added on January 22.**

Lent Brainstorming Ideas:

- We should change / expand the theme from ***giving up*** to ***giving or contributing***. (Ofelia)
This idea struck a very positive note and generated ideas/discussion.
- Similarly, a profoundly Jesuit theme: ***preparation through service***. (John)
- Can we develop a ***common thread musically***? (Theresa)
- Can we publish a ***list of books*** to read, a ***list of music*** that will enhance preparation? (Ofelia)
- A special ***Service of Reconciliation***, specifically developing a ***theme of forgiveness***.
- We did a ***skit*** years ago. Was very successful. During mass or during a special service. There was not complete memory on which. (Maria and others)
- Father Cartwright did a special thing with a piece of ***purple yarn*** that was handed out to each person (ala a piece of palm) to be tied near the phone or other prominent place so that we would remember, reflect, forgive. (Ofelia)
- Special liturgical ***Stations of the Cross*** (Vicki). Is there liturgical music for the Stations to make a special service? (Howard)
- Bach's ***St. Matthew Passion***: Jonathan suggested he could conduct (a series of) instruction on this great musical work accompanied by a bus trip to hear it performed at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley on April 6.
- What about things from ***other cultures*** – especially those represented in our parishioners. (Ofelia)
- Anything to support the ***journey of the RCH*** people. (Barbara)

The meeting ended with a Call for the **Next Meeting: January 22, 6:30 p.m., Xavier Hall**

Summery of Action Items:

<i>What</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>When</i>
Form a working committee to focus on the great O service, and possibly other services, with an emphasis on promotion	The Commission	Not specified
Explore the possibility of publishing a seasonal calendar of upcoming services .	The Commission	Not specified
<i>Possible:</i> Consider the desirability and practicality of a children's Christmas pageant integrated into the Children's Christmas Mass	The Commission	Not specified
Review and submit comments on the Mission Statement Draft prior to next meeting. <i>Send to:</i> John Bitterman johnbitterman@yahoo.com Stephen St. Marie stephenstmarie@sbcglobal.net Gerry Cofe No email	Each Commission Member	January 16 <i>(see note below)</i>
Vote on Mission Statement	The Commission	January 22 <i>(see note below)</i>
Distribute "in persona Christi" to Commission members	Don	ASAP
Read the Sister Sharon articles and the "in persona Christi" to prepare for the discussion at the next meeting on the new changes to the liturgy .	Each Commission Member	January 22
Preparation for Lent & Easter: Review brainstorming notes in this document & the notes from last April 16 review (attached) and think about other items to formulate ideas for Lent and Easter	Each Commission Member	January 22
Distribution List: Please check your entry in the attached distribution list and check for accuracy. Phone numbers were arbitrarily placed in home or business. Please send corrections to Howard Case: hcase@casesf.com	Each Commission Member	ASAP

Note: The deadline for review of the Mission Statement and the date of the final vote were scheduled for the "next meeting" before the meeting was added on January 22. John Bitterman should decide if the deadline should be January 22 or the originally scheduled "next" meeting of February 12th.

Meeting notes produced by Howard Case: hcase@casesf.com