

St. Ignatius Church

A Jesuit Parish
San Francisco, California

Worship Commission

Meeting Notes – February 12, 2003
Xavier Hall – 6:30 p.m.

In attendance:

Committee Members:

John Bitterman – *Chairperson*
Howard Case - *Secretary*
Gerry Cole
Theresa Murphy
Bill O’Neil
Victoria Siu
Stephen St. Marie
Nick Rocchio

Staff Supporting the Committee:

Don Crean – Director of Liturgy
Jonathan Dimmock – Director of Music
Fr. Jim Blaetler, S.J – Associate Pastor

Chairperson Bitterman called the meeting to order.

Don Crean offered a prayer and meditation accompanied by recorded music.

The Order of Business

The published Agenda was distributed:

1. Follow-up on Lenten discussion 15 min.
2. New Business 20 min.
 - I. Financial affairs of parish
 - II. 9:30 a.m. Choir Director
 - III. Parish Council
 - IV. Other Business
3. New Instruction on the Liturgy 1 hr.

Follow-Up on Lenten Services

- The **Reconciliation Service** has been scheduled for March 10 (1st Monday in Lent).
- **Good Friday (day service)** service will start at 1:30 and is expected to take 90 minutes.
- **Good Friday evening** at 7:00 p.m. there will have *Stations of the Cross* conducted by Andy Whelan who will be conducting the Stations every Friday during Lent in lieu of the Rosary normally conducted at these times.
- There will be a **Burning of the Ashes** ceremony at the 9:30 and 11:00 mass on Sunday March 2 – the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday. It will be conducted at the introduction

of mass at the aisle cross in the nave. It will be a short and mostly symbolic ceremony, burning only a small quantity of palms.

- A question was raised by Don Crean on the **readings during Lent**: Although this year the readings are in cycle B from St. Mark, it is sometimes considered desirable to use the readings from cycle A, St. John, which better support the journey of the Catechumens. If the readings of John are used, it will only be at the 9:30 mass which might present some coordination problems for the priests preparing their sermons. After discussion, Don agreed to further discuss this with the parish priests.
- The question of a **theme for Lent** was re-introduced and discussed. A motion was made by Howard Case to adopt the theme of ***Forgiveness coupled with Reconciliation***. It was seconded by Victoria Siu and adopted unanimously.
 - Don Crean expanded on the ideas: forgiveness of self, of others, socially.
 - It was recommended that a prayer be published in the bulletin and on the web supporting this theme.
 - It was recommended that all preachers be advised of the theme and asked to work it into their sermons.
 - It was suggested by Howard Case that we might also start to think about the effect that the outbreak of war might have on the congregation: what will be the emotional and real needs of the parishioners, how does it tie in with our Lent theme, what response should there be from the pulpit.
 - Howard Case recommended an article for background reading: on the web: Chicago Episcopal Diocese: *Reflections and Suggestions for Lent, Lent and Forgiveness*: <http://www.epischicago.org/Forms/Docs/lentforgiveness2002.pdf>
 - Another committee member recommended www.silk.net/reled/let, but this link does not exist.
- For **Palm Sunday**, the **Passion** will be read by the Confirmation Class *tre-parte* with mime support. Don Crean and Jonathan Dimmock will work out the details.

□□□ **New Business** □□□

A Report on Financial Affairs

- The “reevaluation” date has been moved from February 16 to March 2. This is the date on which a formal evaluation will be made of the expected income following the new drive and a determination of what further cuts need to be made, if any.
- Collection plate revenue is up 50%, but it appears we are unlikely to hit our goal of \$22,000.
- It appears that there is still a shortfall following the cuts, but there is still information gathering necessary.

Choir Director Search for the Sunday 9:30 a.m. mass

Jonathan Dimmock reported that the search has been cancelled and he will assume the responsibility for directing this choir. This decision was made with the pastor and the reality that within the confines of our current financial situation we can not afford to pay for this position. Jonathan reported that he called a meeting of the Music Advisory Committee last week and presented this to them and solicited them for advise and guidance. The following discussion brought these comments:

- Jonathan felt that this presented an opportunity for the Music Director to get closer to the bulk of the parish (the 9:30 and 11:00 communities).
- Jonathan felt that the logistics would be very difficult, but not insurmountable (since the Motet choir has cancelled mid-week rehearsals in a cost-cutting effort, it now rehearses before the 11:00 o'clock mass).
- Jonathan reported that among the advice from the Music Advisory Committee was encouragement to approach the 9:30 choir very self-effacing, admitting that this music is not his forte. The committee also observed that this could be a win/win, bringing together the music community.
- Jonathan distributed a copy of the bulletin announcement that the pastor asked him to place soliciting input from the congregation on music selection at the 9:30 mass.
- Jonathan said that the pastor did not want to announce the canceling of the search in the bulletin or put it on the web site.
- Theresa suggested that we might want to expand the Music Advisory Committee.

A general discussion of the 9:30 mass and music ensued.

- Nick said that we should expand the musical instruments at the 9:30 mass. Jonathan and Don reported that they are constantly looking for piano players and other instrumentalists that can donate time at this mass. Theresa suggested foregoing the organ for a while at this mass to bring people along. The University is adding a program to give credit to instrumentalists who play at mass. It is hoped this will help.
- Victoria reported that there are still serious miking problems with the choir and lector. Jonathan reported that the project to fix the sound system is going forward.
- Don suggested that without a printed program, every song should be announced, and the number should be repeated.

A Report on the Pastoral Council

Theresa Murphy reported that the last meeting was in November and that the next meeting is the 27th of this month. The January meeting was replaced with the Strategic Planning session to develop the 5-year looking forward plan.

- They are trying to insure that there is some membership-overlap with the other sister committees.

- Howard Case asked if the Pastoral Council had oversight over the Finance Committee. It was reported by the pastor that this would not just be advisory oversight. Theresa reported that there was some issue with Cannon Law.
- Theresa reported that there was visit from a representative of the Province who interviewed some members. He is doing a report card on the pastor.
- We will be getting regular Pastoral Council meeting updates at our meetings.

Other New Business

- Stephen St. Marie asked that the minutes from **January 8 & 22 be formally accepted** with the following changes:
 - The minutes from January 8 failed to mention that the commission had asked that the new 8:00 p.m. Christmas Even service should be added to the regular Christmas offerings.
 - The minutes from January 22 had the wrong heading of February 12.

The minutes were formally adopted unanimously with the requested changes and Howard Case will distribute them as corrected and they will be posted on the web site.

- Stephen St. Marie asked that Draft 3 of the *Worship Commission Job Description and Mission Statement* be formally adopted as our final and working definition. It was unanimously approved. It will be distributed to the webmaster for inclusion on the website.
- Don Crean announced that there was a **meeting** coming up on this coming Tuesday **for those “still with angst.”** It is another no Town Hall meeting, and it is by invitation targeted at those parish members that are still carrying hurt over the departure of Rob Grant and other changes that have recently occurred. It will be held in the chapel and will be a chance to dialogue with the pastor and help dispel those that are saying that their voice is never heard.
- Jonathan Dimmock reported that soon he will distribute to us a new draft of the *Music Director’s Vision Statement for Music Programs at St. Ignatius*. He reported that the pastor wants the Worship Commission to review this document, engage in discussion, and formally approve a final document for publication to the parish. This will be an order of business at the next meeting.
 - **Action Item** → All Commission members are asked to review the vision statement before next meeting and be prepared to discuss it.
- Jonathan Dimmock formally offered a huge **Thanks and gratitude to Steven St. Marie** for his work with the 9:30 choir during the period following Rob Grant’s departure.
- Jonathan Dimmock distributed copies of a **report by Ship of Fools**, an Internet magazine dedicated to religious matters with some unorthodox conventions, one of which is “Mystery Worship” in which an anonymous reviewer attends services at various churches and delivers a structured report, everything from “Did anyone welcome you personally?” to comfort of the pews, etc. These reports are published on their web site. The attendee reported on an 11:00 o’clock mass at which we did not have a choir (right at the start of

the cost cutting) and there was virtually no sermon as the time was given to the business manager to report on the financial crisis.

- The committee had little discussion of this report.
- Howard Case again raised the issue of the **financial shortfall** and insufficient information for the parishioners to make recommendations on that what is important and what should be cut because we have not been given basic budget distribution information (a pie chart or other mechanism to show how the funds are currently distributed). Theresa and Nick agreed.

New Instruction on the Liturgy

This was primarily a report by Don Crean on how we are going to implement the required changes, the committee having discussed this over the past several meetings.

- Don distributed two documents from the Committee on the Liturgy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops detailing the specifics of some of the changes.
- Don reported that we will place only 2 items in the bulletin for all parishioners:
 - The congregation will now kneel after the *Lamb of God*.
 - There should be some reverence to the Holy Sacrament, a bow, before receiving communion.
- The new changes will start to be implemented during Lent.
- The changes effecting the Fractioning Rite and distribution of Communion will be introduced to the Communion Ministers on a mass-by-mass basis in a pre-mass meeting 30 minutes before each mass.

Next Meeting: March 12, 6:30 p.m. Xavier Hall

Summary of Action Items:

<i>What</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>When</i>
Correct and Distribute adopted minutes from January 8 & 22, including to webmaster for posting on the web site.	Howard Case	Before next meeting
Distribute Draft 3 as the final adopted version of the <i>Worship Commission Job Description and Mission Statement</i>	Stephen St. Marie	Before next meeting
Review the Music Directors Vision Statement & be prepared to discuss it for adoption and publication	All Commission members	Before next meeting
Prepare information for the lent theme of <i>Forgiveness coupled with Reconciliation</i> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● A prayer for inclusion in the bulletin● Coordination of the sermon preparation with the theme	Not specified	Not specified

Meeting notes produced by Howard Case: Please send comments, suggestions and corrections to hcase@casesf.com