

**Liturgy and Worship Committee
(Also Including Music Advisory Committee Members)
St. Ignatius Church, San Francisco, California**

Wednesday, March 12, 2003
Meeting Minutes

The meeting began shortly after 6:30 p.m. Nick Rocchio presided in the absence of Chairman John Bitterman.

The following were in attendance:

Staff:

Fr. Jim Blaettler, SJ
Don Crean
Jonathan Dimmock
Fr. Charlie Gagan, SJ
Fr. Tom Lucas, SJ
Grace Renaud
Mich Steacy

Other Parishioners – Worship Commission

Ofelia Alayeto
Barbara Bechelli
Kevin Boden
Maria Boden
Howard Case
Geraldine Cole
Wil Krekel
Theresa Murphy
Bill O'Neill
Nick Rocchio
Victoria Siu
Stephen St. Marie

Other Parishioners – Music Advisory Group not already noted above
Anna Ross

Opening Prayer. Barbara Bechelli offered an opening prayer.

Secretary. Howard Case volunteered to prepare draft minutes. *(Note: These minutes were prepared by Stephen St. Marie as Mr. Case was traveling.)*

Minutes of February 12. Barbara Bechelli moved for the acceptance of the minutes of February 12. Wil Krekel seconded. Approved by the committee.

Update of Lenten Celebrations. Don Crean reported.

Reconciliation Service, Monday March 10. The service was offered earlier in the Lenten season than in previous years at the request of this committee. About 50 to 60 people

attended, a disappointing number, but in line with expectations. Lighting was purposefully kept dim. The service began with a dramatic reading of the 10 commandments with questions to aid in the examination of conscience. Members spoke highly of this part of the service. Other comments from members:

- It is difficult to understand the lack of popularity of this service.
- There is a tension between the time used for introduction (including the reading of the commandments) and the time available for individual confessions. Fr. Gagan pointed out that by 8:20, the appointed time, almost everyone had been served, and there was no one waiting for him.
- A father of children complained about the length of the line he waited in.
- Is there a better schedule that would attract more parishioners?
- All of us should ask for feedback from parishioners.

Ash Wednesday, March 5. It is one of the biggest days for the church. There was discussion about whether this would be a good time for a collection. Wil Krekel mentioned that St. Patrick's parish, downtown, did not miss this opportunity! Other comments:

- There were lots of students.
- We should consider adding an 8:00 p.m. mass especially geared to student participation. (There was a 9:00 p.m. service – not a mass – in Xavier Chapel, also well attended.)
- However, instead of adding more services, there is a sense of solidarity and community engendered by having a full church or chapel.
- Reconciliation services are sometimes available before mass. Perhaps our parish should offer reconciliation services before and after all services on Ash Wednesday.
- The music at the 7:30 p.m. mass (Motet Choir) was especially beautiful.
- The 8:00 a.m. mass was quiet, and that was beautiful, too.

Bach St. Matthew Passion, Upcoming on April 6, 7:00 p.m., Zellerbach Hall. Ophelia Alayeto introduced the subject.

- About a dozen people attended Jim Blaettler's and Jonathan Dimmock's lecture on Tuesday, March 11.
- The program has been announced in the bulletin.
- If over 20 people agree to buy tickets for the performance there will be a discount.
- Thanks by all for the efforts of Ophelia, Jim and Jonathan.
- Note that the time is changed: The performance is to be at 7:00 p.m. on April 6.
- All are asked to encourage others to attend.

Don Crean reported that other upcoming services are still in the formative stages. He will meet with Jonathan and others as necessary over the next week to get them set up. He reported broad outlines of the remaining major items:

Palm Sunday, upcoming April 13. The 9:30 mass will begin outside and process into the church. The 11:00 service will begin within the church by the Fulton Street doors. We are not yet set with either university students or confirmation students to do any dramatization of the Passion for either of those masses as requested by this committee.

Holy Thursday, Upcoming, April 17. There is a request outstanding that available Jesuits join our evening service. There is not a Jesuit group conflict. There are questions about how best to do the foot-washing ceremony. We wish to do many people, as has been requested by this group, but time is a factor.

A Food Collection Program is not yet set up. Mentioned by Wil Krekel.

Good Friday, Upcoming, April 18. Tom Lucas introduced this subject. There is to be a multi-media presentation with images and music. At about 7:00 or 7:30, there will be Stations of the Cross. Anyone who wishes to collaborate with Tom in the planning of these liturgies is welcome.

Easter Vigil Service, Upcoming, April 19. There are nine adults to be baptized, four children to be baptized, and an additional six to be received into the Church. A question from Don: How to introduce the people to the community?

Easter Sunday Services, Upcoming, April 20. This is the day of the cast of thousands. Discussion of music was held for a later part of the meeting.

Kevin Boden began a discussion of publicity for all of these events. There are so many events, and though people can check our website, most people do not know to do that, or they just don't think of it. Members of the committee suggested that each week's bulletin should include a notice of the remaining items on the calendar for Lent and Easter. What about a booklet? (Don Crean answered that we will not be doing a booklet this year.) It was suggested that something should be printed that would go well on "the refrigerator door." Howard Case noted that placement of calendar items on the web site should be up front, and recently the web site was changed to get the calendar items up front.

Music Program and Budget. Jonathan Dimmock led a discussion of the music program, beginning with an explanation of several options for using the limited funds available for the program for the period from now through June 30 – the remainder of the fiscal year. He explained that we have cut money from everything that can be cut, and now we have certain options to fund elements of music functions we wish to keep. He presented options with dollar figures attached. The items included:

- Limited funding for the St. Ignatius Motet Choir;
- Funding for a cantor to appear at certain services where no choir appears;
- Funding for piano tuning;
- Funding for organ tuning;
- Two funding options for the 4:00 p.m. Sunday mass choir;
- Funding for an assistant to work with Jonathan to direct the 9:30 choir during the latter portion of the 9:30 mass so that Jonathan could depart to begin preparing the 11:00 choir;
- Two funding options for music at the 5:00 p.m. Saturday mass;
- Funding for a substitute organist / pianist to cover for Jonathan during that portion of April when he will be in Europe; and
- Funding for a combination proposal that would cover several of the other options above.

There was much discussion about the costs of the various options, which were preferable to the others, whether the parish could afford them, and whether the parish could afford not to have them. The totals of the various options could be added up to as little as \$9,825 or as much as \$10,700. Charlie Gagan emphasized that only a certain amount of money is available, though the specific amount may rise some from the budget he had presented earlier to Jonathan. Jonathan noted that these options represented minimum combinations of costs and that some of the savings resulted from visiting choirs coming in on three occasions between Easter and the end of June.

The discussion of money issues led to more general discussion of music program options, including Charlie's strong preference to assure at least some music at the Saturday 5:00 p.m. mass and Sunday's 8:00 a.m. mass. There was much discussion of whether the 9:30 a.m. Sunday masses could re-introduce guitar music as a regular feature, with several members mentioning favorably the guitar, bass, and percussion "combo" at the 9:30 mass on March 9. There has been a response to the parish's advertisement in *San Francisco Catholic* for a volunteer guitarist for that mass. Jonathan included introduction of a guitarist as an option for the 4:00 p.m. mass. Several members of the committee expressed a desire not to change the format of the 4:00 mass by replacing the current director with a guitarist. For Easter, there will be one trumpet, funded through a special collection for Easter flowers and music.

It was noted that it is not only the music of the 9:30 mass that makes it popular among many in the parish. There is other parish infrastructure built around that mass, including the children's liturgy of the word, the coffee program, the Christian Faith Formation classes, and the day-care program. The music is important, but it is not the only thing.

Fr. Tom Lucas spoke of the larger number of students now attending the 4:00 p.m. Sunday mass, partly, he believes, because the 9:00 p.m. Sunday mass has been moved to Xavier Chapel. He stated that this is a powerful moment, and that there is more potential for that mass to grow.

Regarding the 5:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon mass, Vicki Siu noted that re-introduction of music would be a good thing, but there is a minority who prefer silence.

The meeting discussion turned to whether there was a "sense of the committee" regarding the options presented, and how the sense of the committee should be formed. Instead of this committee picking and choosing among the options, it was suggested that Jonathan, being the director of music, should allocate what funds he is given at his own direction. It was generally agreed that the individual options presented were stark, and that some re-working would be necessary, especially as Charlie Gagan indicated some additional funds might be available. Barbara Bechelli sponsored a motion that the general outline presented by Jonathan Dimmock be endorsed by the committee, subject to budget constraints as they might ease the situation. Kevin Boden seconded the motion, which carried by acclamation.

Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes reported by Stephen St. Marie

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