

St. Ignatius Church

A Jesuit Parish
San Francisco, California

Worship Commission

Meeting Notes – April 9, 2003
Xavier Hall – 6:30 p.m.

In attendance:

Committee Members:

John Bitterman – *Chairperson*
Howard Case - *Secretary*
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
Fr. Charles Gagan, S. J. - Pastor

Chairperson Bitterman called the meeting to order.

Bill O’Neill offered a prayer for guidance on our proceedings.

The Order of Business

The published Agenda was distributed:

1. Review and discussion of Lenten services preparations
2. Review and discussion of Easter services plans
3. Continued discussion of the music budget situation
4. New Business
 - I. Nomination of a new Worship Commission Chairperson
 - II. Other new business

Review and discussion of Lenten Services

Review led by Liturgist Don Crean

- Disastrous closing to the 9:30 mass on 3/23. Many reasons including miscommunication.
- Fr. Blaetler reported that there will be 15 **adults for baptism at the Easter Vigil** this year, about ½ of last year’s number. There are an additional 4/5 children and 4/5 first communions.
- John Bitterman inquired how well known was the fact that the *Missa Appalachia* was written by Jonathan Dimmock. Jonathan said that it will soon be published by Church Publishing, Inc. John B. emphasized that we should promote the fact that the mass is written by our Music Director. A discussion ensued on the appropriateness of this mass for the 9:00 congregation. Howard felt it was very well suited because of its easy

melodies and folk sound. Don Crean felt some of the resistance was not inherent in the music, but because too much new music was introduced at once; that we should try to only introduce one new piece per mass. Jonathan mentioned that the St. Ignatius Mass which was used during Advent at the 11:00 O'clock mass was also written by him.

- Jonathan Dimmock reported on the **Passion class series** conducted by him and Fr. Blaettler. The classes used Bach's *St. Mathew's Passion* as a vehicle to explore passion as prayer. About a dozen people participated in the weekly evening classes, culminated in a field trip to Berkeley to hear a live performance of the *Passion*. The class was given very high marks by the participants.

Easter Services

This discussion was lead by Don Crean and was not an exhaustive review of each service, but rather a refining of details already discussed.

- **Palm Sunday**
 - There will be the blessing of the palms and reading of the gospel on the side lawn with a procession into the church. Steven St. Marie will announce from within. The same ceremony will be enacted in the back of the church for the 11:00 o'clock mass.
 - The reading of the Passion with accompanying USF students miming has not been confirmed.
 - The Psalm Response is the Second Reading.
- **Holy Thursday**
 - An extended discussion of the washing of the feet presented several alternatives to emphasize the symbolism of those great and small washing and having their feet washed. For the sake of time, it was agreed that we would have 12 congregation members at the end of the front center isles to have their feet washed and a second family on a bench at the isle crossing.
 - Vicki Siu felt that we needed to make an announcement regarding the veneration of the cross, that it was not necessary to kiss the cross, but only make one's own veneration.
 - Fr. Tom Lucas, S.J. will conduct the *Tre Ore* service accompanied by visual aids and the Motet Choir will perform.
- **Easter Vigil Service**
 - The Contemporary Ensemble accompanied by guests will perform.
- **Jubilee Celebration**, April 27th 4:00pm for three Jesuits
- **1st Communion** – May 4
- **Confirmation** – May 10
 - 50 to be confirmed (plus 9 from St. Agnes and 9 from USF)
 - Dan Schutte will coordinate music (J. Dimmock will be on leave).

Pentecost

- No plans were initiated. Don Crean will be on vacation, so alternate coordinator(s) will need to be arranged.

Continued discussion of the music budget situation

- Howard Case has been asked to chair the Music Advisory Committee.
- A document on the **Restructuring of the Music Department** (presented by Howard Case). The document was being presented by the Music Advisory Committee which met the night before. It presented background information, made recommendations to the Worship Commission and asked the Worship Commission to endorse these recommendations to the Parish Council and the Pastor.
 - Background: Grace Renaud – Director of the 4:30 ensemble – will be stepping down from her position, effective May 19. She is taking a full-time position as Director of Music at MCC (Castro). Jonathan Dimmock will be stepping down as Director of the 9:30 ensemble.
 - Recommendations of the Music Advisor Board:
 - Encourage the parish's financial support of a Music Director of Contemporary Ensemble, as well as an additional accompanist at the 9:30 mass.
 - Recommend the reconvening of the Music Search Committee to interview existing and new candidates for the both the 9:30 and 4:00 o'clock masses.
 - Encourage the reinstatement of weekly service leaflets at the Sunday masses.
- A lengthy discussion of the ramifications, available funds, and details resulted in a motion passing to pass-on these recommendations as requested.
 - The Commission felt it was extremely important for this community (9:30) to have someone in front of the congregation leading them and that dynamism was an important trait.
- Fr. Gagan:
 - Approved the support for a new Director of Contemporary Music and the accompanist.
 - Asked Don Crean to head-up and initiate the search committee. Depending on candidates, there may be a single or two positions for coverage of the 9:30 and 4:00 masses.
- Separately, Fr. Gagan asked Don Crean to investigate if the 9:30 would be happy with the OCP books and the associated cost.
- Separately, Fr. Gagan asked the Commission at it's next meeting to take up the investigation of moving the 4:00pm Sunday mass to 5:00pm.

□□□ **New Business** □□□

Nomination of a New Worship Commission Chairperson

- Bill O’Neil motioned that the Commission ask John Bitterman to continue the chair for another year. Howard Case second. It passed unanimously. The Commission offered formal **thanks to John for his service.**

Miscellaneous

- **Schedules**
 - Jonathan Dimmock will be in Europe May 1- 19. Arrangements have been made to cover his assignments.
 - Don Crean is off June and July.
- **Membership lists:** Howard has reconciled the membership lists and updated email distribution lists which everyone should use and the web site list.
- The **minutes from the Meeting of March 12** were approved with the correction of member attendance and will be distributed to the web for publishing.

The meeting was Adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next Meeting: May 14, 6:30 p.m. Xavier Hall

Summery of Action Items:

<i>What</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>When</i>
Investigate moving the 4:00pm Sunday mass to 5:00pm.	Commission	Next Meeting
Convene the search committee for the Contemporary Music Director	Don Crean	ASAP
Investigate using OCP books at the 9:30 mass: acceptability and cost	Don Crean	When possible

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