

St. Ignatius Church

A Jesuit Parish
San Francisco, California

Worship Commission

Meeting Notes – May 14, 2003
Xavier Hall – 6:30 p.m.

In attendance:

Committee Members:

Nick Rocchio – *Acting Chairperson*
Howard Case – *Secretary*
Ofelia Alayeto
Kevin Boden
Maria Boden
Will Krekel
Bill O’Neill
Victoria Siu
Stephen St. Marie

Staff Supporting the Committee:

Don Crean – Director of Liturgy

Attending Parishioners:

Chris Courter

Acting Chairperson Rocchio called the meeting to order.

Kevin Boden offered a prayer for guidance on our proceedings.

The Order of Business

The published Agenda was distributed:

1. Tridium/Easter follow-up
2. Review and discussion of Remaining Easter Season
3. Pre-mass announcements
4. New Business
 - I. Summer meeting schedule for the committee
 - II. Other new business

The minutes from the last meeting were approved for distribution and posting on the parish web site with correction of noted typos.

Review and discussion of Lenten Services

Review led by Liturgist Don Crean

- **Palm Sunday**
The feedback on the services in general was very positive. The miming of the Passion was generally praised (9:00 & 11:00). Very dignified, “stunning” (Ofelia), Jesus as a

woman was a nice touch & Peter as a minority. The lectors reading the Passion at the 11:00 were also complimented for slow and thoughtful interpretations.

- **Holy Thursday**

The service was attended by about 400. The washing of the feet went very well. It was good to have someone in the center and the inclusion of a family has good symbolism. Bringing up of the gifts: not many food items were brought – maybe the announcements weren't sufficient. The Latin *Panis Angelicus* was highly praised as beautiful (Ofelia). There was a bit of difficulty with one of the readers, but Tom Brady did very well.

- **Good Friday**

Tre Ore Service lead by Father Tom Lucas was given very high marks: an excellent presentation complimented with “superb music to facilitate the reflective mood of the service” (Howard). Over the course of the service, people came and went as seemed to meet their scheduled needs.

2nd Part: Good Friday Service.

Some thought the singing of the Passion was difficult and should have been miked. Most felt that the singing was excellent, very dramatic and particularly mentioned the operatic voice singing Jesus.

Veneration of the cross went very well with orderly procession to the middle. We did not veil the cross and uncover it steps during the procession as has been done in the past.

- A question was raised (Don Crean): In some churches they pass the heavy cross around the church overhead. Should we consider something like this for next year? There was generally a negative reaction to this: it is difficult to coordinate, it can be dangerous and frightening, especially to elders, and it might be taken as offensive. It was mentioned that Holy Trinity Church has a similar large heavy cross and they have the veneration at the end of the service with people holding the cross on a slant.
- Bill O'Neill asked if we needed to be concerned about SARS and kissing the cross.

Confession (Reconciliation). It was mentioned that many people have traditionally gone to confession on Good Friday, and although we had a priest available, we should advertise that priests will be available during this service for confession.

Stations of the Cross There was a surprisingly larger attendance than expected (about 150), probably a reflection of the later hour making a service available to those who can not get away from work but still want to go to church on Good Friday. Jonathan put together a last-minute music selections with Mish and the lack of planning made it difficult for Don, but it came off nicely. It was felt that we should definitely have this service again next year and possibly expand on it.

- **Easter Vigil**

The choice music was very inclusive and appropriate and the Contemporary Choir did a great job. The Reading of the Creation needs work. It was recommended that John Bitterman should take it over next year. Don has been trying to reduce rehearsals – maybe too much – especially if we expand to include youthful readers. Fr. Blaettler was commended for his narration of the gospel.

- **Easter Sunday**
 - 9:30 – It was universally felt that the choices of music were not well suited to this congregation. Particularly they did not facilitate the congregation’s participation with familiar hymns. There were also changes in the mass (different masses used for different parts) and the Responsorial was choral. In general “Jonathan did a fantastic job,” but the choices of music were not well matched to this mass.
 - 11:00 – The response to the overall service was entirely positive, even laudatory. The music was “stunning,” and the single trumpet (secured with the special collection) filled the space. Very positive comments were made on Fr, Lucas’ “Shock and Awe” sermon.
 - General:
 - The flowers were beautiful.
 - There was a crush after the 9:30 as people tried to get seats for the 11:00. This brought up a discussion of the general need for ushers to take a more active role, especially on feast days when non-regular attendants need assistance and order needs more attention. This lead to a general discussion of the need to upgrade the role of the ushers. It was decided to table this as new business to be addressed at a later meeting to which Vanita Louie should be invited.
 - Other Easter Services
 - 1st Communion was excellent: Fr. Gagan did a great job and the children were very well coached.
 - Confirmation Mass: Bishop Wester was good, the music as right-on, and 72 people were confirmed. “The Holy Spirit was there.” The “direction by Don was especially good and this is what we should strive for.” (Steven St. Marie)

Remaining Easter Services

- **Ascension Thursday:** Will be celebrated on Sunday, June 1.
 - **Pentecost Sunday:** June 8
- Don Crean will not be here for either of these masses.

Pre-Mass Announcements (New Business)

Don Crean brought-up the idea of making an announcement before mass to have everyone stand and greet the people around them. The discussion did not gel. It should be readdressed.

Changing the 4:00pm mass to 5:00pm (New Business)

The Pastor asked to Commission to consider this topic, to see if a time change will better serve the needs of the parish. Ofelia said it was discussed in the Pastoral Council but got lost in the financial crisis. After the meeting Ofelia corrected this to say that the Pastoral Council considered a change of time for the 4 o'clock several years ago, when St. Ignatius was exploring changing the times of all the Sunday Masses to see if meetings and classes could be fitted into one day. Although there was no feeling against the change, the effort

was abandoned, since the Council felt that it wasn't the right time to make so many changes."

A lengthy discussion on the change of time followed:

- On the nature of the 4:00 congregation - "hard to put our hands around it"
- The virtues of 4:00 vs. 5:00
- The wisdom of coordinating a change with the University mass schedule (consolidate a late University mass with this mass)

It was decided that we must answer the Pastor's question. The way to properly approach this, it was agreed, was thought the formation of a sub-committee (Steve) to:

- Survey the current members of the 4:00pm congregation to know their reaction to moving the time of this mass.
- Understand the demographics of this mass
- Review the old survey that was conducted a few years ago
- Work with Don Crean who will evaluate the University mass change option.

Ofelia moved that the subcommittee be formed, that Maria Boden chair the subcommittee and that it be charged with the above tasks and report to the Commission with its results and recommendation by our next meeting.

- It was seconded by Howard and carried with a unanimous vote.
- Maria accepted the challenge.
- Kevin, Steven, and Vicki agreed to serve on the subcommittee.
- It was agreed that a general survey of the entire congregation was not in order on this issue.

Summer Meeting Schedule (New Business)

It was asked if we should change the summer meetings to less-frequent schedule. We agreed that we should not lose our current momentum and should keep the regular schedule.

Search for Contemporary Music Director (Old Business, off agenda)

Howard inquired if there was a report available on the search for the Contemporary Music Director. Will Krekel gave an excellent report on the work of the search committee and distributed a written report on interviews with Tim Murphy a candidate currently engaged at St. Dominic's. After listening to his presentation, the Commission recommended that the search committee move quickly and recommend to the Pastor that Tim be employed as soon as possible.

The meeting was Adjourned at 9:30pm.

Next Meeting: June 11, 6:30 p.m. Xavier Hall

Summary of Easter Service Comments For Next Year:

<i>Service</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Palm Sunday	Miming of the Passion should be continued.
Holy Thursday	Washing of the feet works well in the center and the inclusion of a family has good symbolism.
Holy Thursday	We need to better advertise bringing of food for the offering
Holy Thursday	<i>Panis Angelicus</i> is a particularly appropriate hymn
Good Friday	Fr. Lucas's <i>Tre Ore</i> is worth keeping
Good Friday	We need to advertise that confessions are available during the service.
Good Friday	Stations of the Cross should be continued and expanded as an evening service.
Easter Vigil	Reading of the Creation needs more practice. It was recommended that John Bitterman should take it over next year.

Summary of Action Items:

<i>What</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>When</i>
Place "Role of the Ushers" on a future agenda and invite Vanita Louie to attend that meeting.	John Bitterman	ASAP
Place "Pre-Mass Announcements" on a later agenda.	John Bitterman	not specified
Form subcommittee to evaluate changing the 4:00pm mass to 5:00 or 5:30 and report to the Commission by next meeting	Maria Boden	ASAP

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