

**St. Ignatius Parish – San Francisco
Worship Commission
Minutes of January 14, 2004 Meeting**

Committee Members Present:

John Bitterman – Chairman, Presiding
Barbara Bechelli
Kevin Boden
Maria Boden
Gerry Cole
Wil Krekel
Nick Rocchio
Stephen St. Marie – Secretary

Staff Present:

Don Crean
Tim Murphy

Minutes reported by Stephen St. Marie

Opening Prayer: Wil Krekel led the group in an opening prayer.

Minutes: Minutes of the November meeting were adopted.

Agenda for this evening's meeting:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Review of Advent and Christmas
4. Preparation for Lent and Easter
5. Floor and Sound updates
6. Liturgical Minister Updates and New Membership
7. Church Document Discussion for Future Meetings

Thanksgiving Day – Don Crean reporting

A discussion of the Thanksgiving Day liturgy elicited positive comments. The music was appropriate and simple; the presentation of gifts, including gifts of food for the poor, was well done and inspiring.

Don noted that although we do not have a food distribution program in our parish at this time, food donation as a part of the mass is liturgically correct.

Given this committee's previous recommendation that the time of the mass be changed, John asked about the number of attendees. Don reported that the crowd was pretty good, as expected. John noted that this subject should be placed on the agenda next fall.

Advent and Christmas – Don Crean reporting

Advent Gathering Rite – During Advent, each mass began under the wreath, which was hanging in the center of the church, with the hymn *O Come, O Come, Emanuel*. This was a unifying event for the parish. It was remarked that more people were singing this hymn than any other. Parishioners at the 11:00 a.m. Sunday masses

were singing the hymn. It was generally recommended that this style of the gathering rite be used again.

Advent Reconciliation Service – This year’s reconciliation service took place on Sunday, December 7, at 4:00 p.m. This was a new time and date. The service was well done, and the music was good. However, the attendance was no more than in previous years, when the service was held on a weekday evening. There was also a student service at another time in Xavier Chapel. That service also had only a few participants.

There was a discussion of whether we should keep the service, drop it, or change it. The following alternatives were discussed:

- Move it to the time between the morning masses (after the 9:30 a.m. mass, but before the 11:00 a.m. mass). This suggestion was discarded, as there is not enough time between the masses for a liturgy. Besides, the sacrament of reconciliation is available at that time every week.
- Replace it with an all-morning retreat event to be held on a Saturday, running from the close of the early morning mass until the noon mass. The reconciliation service itself could happen at 11:00, to be followed by the regular mass at noon.
- Keep it as is for another year.
- Drop it altogether.

The Committee did not arrive at a conclusion.

Christmas Mass at 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve – Tim Murphy did a great job, Fr. Gagan was very pleased and at his best. The church was packed with as many as 2,000 souls. The children’s choir about broke even, which was what was expected and hoped for.

U The Commission resolved to send a letter of appreciation to Tim Murphy, who led the Children’s choir and made the event a success. Kevin Boden to draft.

Christmas Mass at 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve – Well attended, more people than last year, when this time was new. About 500-700 people. The Ensemble Choir sang, and there was good participation. The Committee recommends keeping this mass on the schedule.

Christmas Mass at Midnight with 11:15 Prelude Service – Well attended. The prelude service consisted of readings of poems as well as music from the Motet Choir. There was much discussion of the music and the choices. One member would prefer a more traditional “Lessons and Carols” presentation. It was also observed that this group of parishioners might appreciate more accessible music, for there was little singing from the congregation during the prelude service. Another member pointed out that during the mass itself, which featured more traditional carols, everyone sang.

U The Commission resolved to send a letter of appreciation to Mich Steacy, who did much of the organizing and directing of the Motet Choir for the Christmas Services. Kevin Boden to draft.

Christmas Morning Mass at 8:00 a.m. – Just a few attended this mass, which featured organ and cantor.

Christmas Morning Mass at 9:30 a.m. – Attendance was less than what we usually see at Sunday 9:30 masses. Ensemble Choir sang.

Christmas Morning Mass at 11:00 a.m. – Attendance was more than at the 9:30 a.m. mass, but not as much as at a normal 11:00 a.m. Sunday celebration. The Motet Choir sang.

Christmas Decorations – Members indicated that the decorations looked very good. There were fewer Christmas trees, but it seemed that each one was better decorated than in previous years. The effect was less crowded than in the past and looked better. The trees stayed up through the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. This was possible because the trees appeared only shortly before Christmas. The wreaths were still up as of the time of this meeting, on January 14.

One suggestion for improvement: Do not put flowers on the railing of the steps into the pulpit. It makes the area too crowded, and it is dangerous.

Another suggestion: Continue in the future to put the cross out in plain view during the masses, near the stand with the scriptures.

Preparation for Lent and Easter – Don Crean Reporting

Ash Wednesday – There will be masses at 8:00 a.m., 12:05 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. in the church. Also 6:00 p.m. in Xavier Hall. There will also be a 9:00 p.m. liturgy with ashes in Xavier Hall, but that will not be a mass. In addition, at 6:30 p.m., there will be a gathering of past and present RCIA participants.

It was strongly recommended by the Worship Commission that collections be taken at the Ash Wednesday services in the church.

Reconciliation Service – Don Crean indicated that a service would attract the most parishioners if it were held in Holy Week. Last year the service was held at the beginning of Lent, and there were few in attendance.

The subject of scheduling was discussed at length. One problem is that musicians are overbooked during Holy Week. Tim Murphy suggested a silent service, an idea rejected out of hand by Don. The subject of scheduling this service was postponed until the next Liturgy Commission meeting.

There was brief discussion of the later events in Lent.

Palm Sunday – Don will work on getting students for the dramatic reading of the Passion. Usually these are university students. John asked if it would be possible to get Confirmation students, and Don reported that he would try.

Holy Thursday – We need a volunteer from this Committee to organize the foot washing. We also need a volunteer to handle the food drive.

Good Friday – There will be a Three-hour Solemnity, with music and reflections from noon to 2:00 p.m., and a solemn liturgy of the Lord's Passion from 2:00 to 3:00. There will also be Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m. The Stations will feature current petitions developed by the Social Justice Committee.

Holy Saturday – Kevin Boden will coordinate the invitation of the Lectors for the Easter Vigil service. John Bitterman will coordinate the volunteers to read from the book of Genesis.

Easter – Don will need assistance with decorations.

The members of the Committee asked Don Crean if the Staff would be able to prepare a brochure with a schedule of Lent and Easter events. Don reported that he will look into it.

All of these topics can be discussed at greater length at the next meeting on February 11.

Sound System Update – Kevin Boden reporting

Kevin reported that we have found two sound systems that can work in the church. He thanked Pat Steacy for help in coordinating the project. Now the question is the budget and getting with the Pastor. Chairman Bitterman thanked Kevin for his hard work.

Liturgical Ministers Update – Don Crean reporting

Don reported that he is about to begin a class of liturgical ministers. This process is generally supposed to happen in the fall, but this last fall he was unable to get to it.

Worship Commission Membership – Don Crean reporting

Don reported that he has not been able to get to the subject of contacting potential new members for this committee. Kevin indicated that members of the Committee should be doing the recruiting, not Staff.

U A committee was formed, consisting of Kevin Boden, Stephen St. Marie, and Wil Krekel, to recruit new members of the Worship Commission. Don will provide the list of names so far assembled.

Reading Assignment: Overview of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy – Don Crean reporting.

U Don passed out copies of a document entitled *Overview of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* and assigned all to read it before the next meeting.

Music Staff Update – Don Crean reporting

The parish has hired Terry Jensen to be director of the Motet Choir. Terry used to direct music at Holy Name parish. He will direct the music for the 5:00 p.m. Saturday mass and the 11:00 a.m. Sunday mass. Terry is an accomplished liturgist, but, by his own admission, not a great organist in the style that we have been used to here. Still, the parish has determined that he is a good fit for this position at this time.

There was long discussion of the qualifications suitable for this position and of the hiring process that resulted in Mr. Jensen's recruitment.

Other Updates and Topics

Greeters at the Doors – Mr. Rocchio stated that the greeters were very good at the Christmas liturgies. We need to work on that topic, which has been discussed at these meetings from time to time.

Training of Liturgical Ministers – Maria Boden stated that as we begin again to train liturgical ministers again, we should also train those who would deliver communion to the sick in hospitals and at home. Don reported that he will put that on the list.

Floors and Carpet Committee – Nick Rocchio reporting

Nick reported that there is a proposed final design and plan for the floors of the church. Now it is necessary to coordinate with Fr. Gagan.

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Follow-up List

- U The Commission resolved to send a letter of appreciation to Tim Murphy, who led the Children's choir and made the event a success. Kevin Boden to draft.
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