

**St. Ignatius Parish – San Francisco
Worship Commission
Minutes of April 11, 2005**

Commission members present:

Kevin Boden
Maria Boden
Rose Casserly
Diane Del Chiaro – Secretary
Reed Minuth (new)
Hilary Paskowitz
Michelle Rios
Nick Rocchio
Vicki Siu
Stephen St. Marie – Chair
Kerry Swarthout (new)
Steven Wilkes (new)

Staff members present:

Don Crean
Terry Jensen

Regular Business:

Vicky Siu offered the opening prayer.

The minutes from the meeting of March 9 were reviewed. No changes were requested, and the minutes were adopted.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4.

Kevin Boden will lead the opening prayer at the next meeting.

Hilary Paskowitz will provide light snacks.

Membership Update and Thanks to Retired Members:

Chairman Stephen St. Marie reported on the work of the membership subcommittee, which includes himself and Kevin Boden, who worked closely with Don Crean. He reported that as previously reported, Rose Casserly joined the Commission in March. He introduced three additional new members joining the commission: Reed Minuth, Kerry Swarthout, and Steven Wilkes. The new members were welcomed to the commission and thanked for agreeing to participate. Mr. St. Marie indicated that the addition of the new members brings the total membership to 13, two short of a full complement. The subcommittee recommends that we not fill the remaining positions at this time, but instead wait until the fall. That will provide greater continuity and freshness to the group over time.

Mr. St. Marie recalled the service of the Commission members who recently have finished their terms of service and stepped down: Ofelia Alayeto, Barbara Bechelli, Barbara Berman, Gerry Cole, Wil Krekel, and Bill O’Neill. He read aloud to the group a letter from Gerry Cole expressing her gratitude for the opportunity to serve and her best

wishes for the members of the Worship Commission. Mr. St. Marie recommended that the gratitude of the Commission and of the Parish be expressed to the former members in a letter to each. The Commission approved the idea unanimously.

Review of Holy Week and Easter Liturgies:

Worship Commission Assistance

Members of the Worship Commission volunteered to help at each of the liturgies. Don Crean noted that this assistance was greatly appreciated, and it made coordination much easier. Thanks to those who helped.

Lenten Reconciliation Service

About 70 people attended the service. Fr. Gagan received a letter of congratulations on the service, which was shared with the Commission. The burning of the palms after individual confessions was a good idea. If we do it again, the candle(s) for lighting palms should be placed to the side of the basin, rather than in it. Also, it would be better to place the stand at a lower level.

There was brief discussion of having more frequent reconciliation services to increase participation. Detailed review of this proposal was tabled for a later meeting.

Palm Sunday

Particular thanks to Nick Rocchio, who helped move and setup the palms on Friday and Saturday. The decoration of the front altar was particularly beautiful.

The outside sound system (lectionette) worked well for the prayers and procession. In the future, we should station ushers at the Campion doors to ensure that people have programs, and to direct them to participate in the procession by walking outside to the Fulton Street entrance (rather than coming straight into the church through the side door after the initial prayers).

The students did a good job on the Passion play. The members of the Commission were particularly pleased that this year, the participants were members of parish families. It was suggested that such a large venue requires exaggerated expressions and gestures to improve visibility for the congregation.

Holy Thursday

Maria Boden helped with general coordination, and she recruited the initial candidates for the foot-washing ceremony along with Robin Anderson.

We had very good response on the foot washing, especially at the “open” stations at the center crossing. Suggested minor logistical improvements for next year: more towels, and assignment of assistants for the central stations.

The towel collection at Offertory also went well.

Good Friday

Hilary Paskowitz provided assistance for these services. It was noted that in future, the person checking in ministers for the liturgy should arrive before noon, as most seemed to check in before that service.

12:00-2:00 Service: All who attended agreed that the sermons were excellent, with a good diversity of voices. Note that singers for the liturgy could not attend this service due to a rehearsal conflict; we should explore scheduling options next year.

2:00 Liturgy: The music was complimented, especially *Behold the Wood / Glory in the Cross* pairing. There was discussion of the timing of the liturgy: Liturgical rules discourage having the communion liturgy before 3:00pm. However, this liturgy occurs in continuity with the 12:00-2:00 service, and the sequence is part of parish tradition. It also provides an option for those unable to attend an evening liturgy. It would be possible to have a second communion service in the evening, as other parishes do. However, our parish provides the Stations of the Cross as an evening option. Further consultation with the pastor is recommended; the Commission expressed no preference.

Stations of the Cross: Having a cantor was good; the *Stabat Mater* was much appreciated. We still need to work a bit to encourage singing by the congregation.

Easter Vigil

Kevin Boden and Vicky Siu helped with these services. Kevin's preparation of the lectors got good results.

Baptisms: We need to wait on having the community renewal of baptismal vows until the newly baptized have been blessed, received their candles, etc. It was suggested that the catechumens process through the church during the singing of the full Litany of Saints.

Music: Members agreed that we missed the sound of the drumbeat that had accompanied the Exodus readings in some previous years. This year we did not include the drumming. Kevin noted this takes particular coordination between drummer and reader to ensure a good flow. So if we wish to restore this tradition, we would need to know early next year so that we could schedule enough rehearsal time. The brass ensemble was much enjoyed, but placement of the musicians affects how the microphones pick up the sound. It is important to place the musicians so that they do not overpower the rest of the musicians. Based on several options tried during the weekend, the "11 o'clock" position got best results for balance and visibility.

Easter Sunday

All services were well attended. There was some delay in opening up the choir loft during the 9:30 mass. We also need to make sure that the ushers are asking people to make space in the pews, as well as directing those standing to the loft.

Hospitality: Food ran out early at 9:30, and the 11:00 hospitality was not announced.

Update on the Flooring Project:

Subcommittee Chairman Nick Rocchio reported that the job is done! There are a few minor fix-ups remaining, but the main job has been accomplished. There was a spontaneous round of applause, and the Commission congratulated chairman Rocchio on a job well done, and thanked him for his efforts.

Update on the Sound System Project:

Subcommittee Co-chairman Kevin Boden reported that the project is 98.9% complete. The essential hardware is all installed. There are minor adjustments still under way, and working with the installers has presented some challenges. It is anticipated that sometime in the future, the sound system will receive its own back-up power system so that it can continue to operate, at least for a while, even in the presence of a general power failure. Mr. Boden thanked his co-chair, Howard Case, who was not present for the meeting, for his hard work on the project. Howard, Kevin reported, is the one who did most of the work and who exhibited most of the patience as the process dragged on over several months.

Kevin noted that one of the benefits of the new sound system is that we now have several headphone hearing devices for those who are hare of hearing. The devices are available in the Book Nook. It is anticipated that the parish will purchase more of these devices in the future. It was suggested that the devices be more widely advertised: in the program, added to the Book Nook sign, and signs placed on the program stands.

Other Business:

Nick Rocchio raised the subject of the ministry of greeting people as they enter church for mass. Is this a subject our commission should try to tackle? Stephen St. Marie responded that another committee, the Welcoming Committee, has also voiced an interest in organizing and improving the greetings ministry. However, Fr. Gagan has taken direct control over this ministry. Stephen reported that Barbara St. Marie, the chair of the Welcoming Committee, has been in discussions with Fr. Gagan and with Rita Cenni of the Pastoral Council about the greeters ministry.

Mr. Rocchio requested that the agendas for future meetings include a line item for other business, or new business as a regular item so that the members of the commission can add new items to the agenda. The March agenda did, in fact, include a line item for other business. Chairman St. Marie agreed to include such a line item on all future agendas.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday May 4, 2005 at 6:30 PM.