

Liturgy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

Attendance: Dan Morris, Cecilia Chang, Mary Ellen Hennig, Mabel Hoffman, Ed Johnson, Janice LaMotte, Totsie Taylor

Absent: Mary Lou Caldwell, Tom Kemnitz, Cynthia Rohrs-Carter, Dick Sherman

Prayer: Led by Dan

Minutes: The minutes from the November meeting were approved. Comments included:

All Souls' Day:

1. **Picture display** of departed loved ones went well. More pictures kept coming in as the month of November progressed. Next year, stress that they need to be in frames.
2. **Book of names of departed** had extra names penned in by various people. Suggestion: put the official book or those pages under glass (which have only the names of people from our parish who died during the past year). This book will be kept for historical reasons. Have another book on some sort of lectern in which people can write any names of their departed, near the jar with the envelopes.
3. **Chimes** used for the reading of the names of those who died during the past year seemed effective. This was done at every Mass.

RCIA Rite of Acceptance:

1. **Non-English speakers:** (Hispanic) Several of the new candidates' families or sponsors spoke little English. One of our seminarians had helped Janice to prepare them for this ceremony. He also briefly translated parts of the rite into Spanish as the candidates' senses were signed. The 9:30 choir sang "Come to the Feast" (Hurd), which has a Spanish refrain, for the processional song for the RCIA. Dan emphasized that our parish is an English-speaking parish, and candidates who wish to join need to be aware that the English language would be used.
2. **Preparation of the congregation:** There is a need to better prepare the general congregation about the RCIA rites, and understand the whole concept of welcoming and supporting new members who want to join the church. The signing of the candidates by the general congregation was a very meaningful gesture, both for the candidates, and for those members of the congregation who came out of their pews to do it.

Christ the King:

1. The **banner** was put up over the large crucifix. Comments heard about it were both positive and negative (not some people's favorite artistic style). A suggestion was made to put the banner up 2 weeks earlier, so it can be up a longer time. There are grave concerns about safety when putting up banners, etc. Someone almost fell. The idea of pulleys or stage rigging needs to be researched. Installing pulleys will require scaffolding.

Advent:

Environment is lovely. Everyone liked the addition of the purple drape above the Advent wreath.

Lighting of Advent candle(s): need a stool or step ladder nearby. Altar server can light the candle(s).

Blessing of the Wreath: It seemed that some of the presiders at the 1st Sunday of Advent Mass read the blessing of the wreath at different times (immediately after the entrance processional, or after the homily). In any event, the blessing should happen at every Mass on the first Sunday of Advent.

New song books for pews: The new Breaking Bread books were put out into the pews on November 28th, the Friday after Thanksgiving. Mary Ellen had a crew of about 10 people who volunteered to help. It took the crew 1 and 1/2 hours total. There are not enough covers for all the books, as books disappear over the course of time. She estimated that we have about 450 covers - about 70 short. The covers are deteriorating badly and will not last much longer. No conclusions were reached about future plans for song books - whether to buy more or different covers, just have no covers, or wait until the lectionary changes are finalized and get hard-bound hymnals that last a number of years.

December 4 (Thursday) - Parish Reconciliation: Thursday evening, December 4th.

December 12 (Friday) - Guadalupe Mass and Fiesta:

Concelebrated Mass with the bishop is on Friday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m. Rosary in several languages representing the cultural diversity of our parish will be recited at 6:30 p.m. Dan needs to be sure to reserve 2 parking spots for the bishop and his assistant. We may need more servers. Dan suggested using walkie-talkies or cell phones to communicate that evening before the service, to coordinate the children, mariachis, moment to begin the procession, etc.

Scheduling difficulties: With the multiplication of activities, services, and rehearsals, there have been some conflicts. Children's Guadalupe dance rehearsals were scheduled at the same time as children's choir rehearsals. (has since been changed). Simbang Gabi rehearsals were scheduled at the same time as parish reconciliation and choir rehearsal with the mariachis (has since been changed). All events and rehearsals need to be coordinated.

December 16 (Tuesday) - Children's Reconciliation: Thursday, December 16th. There is also a choir practice on that day at 8:00 p.m. in the church.

December 18 (Thursday) - St. Joseph's School Christmas Program in the parish hall.

December 17-20 (Wed. - Sat.) - Simbang Gabi:

Simbang Gabi (Filipino traditional preparation for Christmas which is sponsored by our diocese) will be each evening at 7:00 p.m. Decoration will include 4 hanging stars, 2 large, and 2 small. One is raised each night, until all four are up. The simple cord pulleys with hooks on the ceiling of the church are used. The one to be put up near the choir loft will be lighted (electric). They can be left up for Christmas, unless the one in the sanctuary is in the way of Christmas decorations. Sister Gloria is the contact person for any questions about decorations.

December 21 (Sunday) - Choir Concert in church at 7:00 p.m., , celebrating Dan's 30 years as music director, and featuring the Schubert Mass in G.

Christmas Preparations:

Totsie and Dan are coordinating the decoration of the church and hall for Christmas. (Thank you!!!)

Friday, December 19, 10:00 a.m. - assemble and put up Christmas trees and crèche scene (need men for the trees). Have blessing of Christmas trees and refreshments when finished.

Monday, December 22, 10:00 a.m. - put up rest of decorations (men needed for wreaths, banners, and outdoor decorations; and women needed for everything else). Hall will also be decorated on this day if there is enough help.

Tuesday, December 22 at 10:00 a.m. for decoration of hall, if it doesn't get done on Monday.

Environment:

Consensus was to use the hanging trumpet banners around the church rather than the black wire lanterns. If black wire lanterns are used for anything else, the small electric vigil lights can be used inside them (last for 72 hours).

There will be three artificial Christmas trees (lights pre-installed) - need to buy one more.

The big banner on the left side of the sanctuary wall (with the gold star) will remain.

The Advent wreath, already covered with small electric lights, will be turned on and will have red/gold ribbons and white/red candles.

Christmas:

Baby Jesus statue: will be brought in by a child at the 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve (Mass with emphasis on children).

Alleluia repeated after Gospel:

Suggestion that we do this for the Christmas season. (Be sure to wait for the presider to say, "The Gospel of the Lord," before starting the music.)

Electric vigil lights:

Children will carry vigil holders with small electric flames (6/\$5 at Walgreen's). At Communion time, during "Silent Night," the lights in the church will be lowered, and the children will turn on their vigil lamps.

Altar servers accompany procession of gifts up at offertory:

Suggestion that two altar servers, each with a candle (use the swinging lamps on procession poles), go to the back of the church at offertory time to accompany the gifts (bread, wine, money) bearers up to the front. There will be a need to instruct the servers about this.

Proclamations: There is an official proclamation (announcing the birth of Christ) that can be formally sung at one or more of the Masses for Christmas. Dan is considering singing it at the 10 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. There is another proclamation to be formally sung on the feast of the Epiphany which announces the date of Easter (2009).

Lunar New Year Celebration - Sunday, February 8 at 11:00:

The organizing committee met on November 20th.
Father Greg and several other priests will concelebrate.
The 11:00 choir will participate, and will learn some Mandarin (for the hymn, "China, God's Kingdom").
The first verse of the opening song, "Holy God We Praise Thy Name," will be sung in Chinese. Song sheets will be provided for the congregation. It is suggested that the song sheets contain both the Chinese characters (for Chinese readers), and also the phonetic sounds (for non-Chinese readers).
The first reading will be in Cantonese.
An ancestral ceremony will be held in the church.
Lion dancers will conclude the Mass and perform in front of the church.
A reception will follow the Mass in the parish hall.
The committee will meet again on Friday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Miscellaneous:

Parish Pay: There is a campaign to encourage people to sign up for Parish Pay. Suggestion: have a person with a laptop available after Masses to facilitate the signups. Parish Pay would help the parish with more predictable financial planning.

Whistling Microphones: The mikes worn by the presiders sometimes whistle, depending upon where they are placed. Need to work on this.

Evening Prayer: It would be nice to do this someday - with full choir.

Offertory Gifts in the Back of Church: Need to think of other alternatives to placing the gifts on the table in the back of church. Sometimes table is knocked over.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 6, 7:00 p.m. in the rectory.
Let Dan know if you have any items to be put on the agenda for discussion.