

Liturgy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 6, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Prayer: led by Janice

Minutes: The minutes were approved.
The following comments were made about the minutes from last month:

Sound System: Totsie discovered , shortly before Christmas Masses were to begin, that the sound system switch in the church sound closet was broken. Dan replaced the switch.

A note to make for next year: check all systems regularly. Make a chart of who is in charge of various things and does the checking.

Electric Vigil Candles: The children's choir held them in the darkened church at their Christmas Eve Mass. It was too dark to read the words of the song - Mary Ann Kimm had made cue cards with large lettering. Otherwise, the song would have to be memorized. The children tended to play with the candles too much.

Proclamations: Consider for next year - proclamations, sung in formal fashion, announcing the dates of upcoming feast days, to be made on Christmas and Epiphany.

Alleluia after Gospel was done only by the 9:30 choir throughout the Christmas season.

Whistling Microphones continue to be an occasional problem. More research needed.

Guadalupe: This year, our bishop was the main celebrant, with several other priests concelebrating. The bishop was impressed, especially with the children's drama and dances. The dances flowed quickly and well. Preparations were complex, and there are still areas that need to be better organized and planned in advance.

- Guadalupe **rehearsals** were scheduled at the same time as other functions such as children's choir rehearsals and adult choir rehearsals.
- Suggestion: **delegate key people** who are in charge of particular aspects of the celebration, and have a list of their names available. Have a meeting of those key people with Dan a week before the celebration. Dan and Totsie were fielding an overwhelming number of questions from people that evening.

- Know exactly who (by name) is to be in the **procession**, and do a one-time rehearsal with those people, as some didn't know what they were to do, where to go, sit, etc. (Example: incense bearer)
- When the exact number of people in the procession is known, reserve the **correct number of pews** (too many pews were reserved both in the church, and in the chapel where the children were seated).
- Be sure **instructions**, etc. are in the hands of those participating; examples, the petitions for the reader of the prayers of the faithful; procession order.
- Do not **line up the procession** outside the vestibule; rather, line up in the community center or a classroom and walk over together immediately before Mass is to begin. Again, there was a lot of congestion and noise in the vestibule 20 minutes before the Mass began.
- Mass began about **10 minutes late**.
- **Fiesta** ended after 10 p.m. which is very late for children. Consider how to change/shorten events. Suggestion: start pinatas earlier. Needed more food servers.
- CD player cannot be hooked up to **sound system in hall**. Need to know in advance what equipment is needed and who is going to run it.

Simbang Gabi:

There were 4 evening Masses, on December 17, 18, 19, 20.

The Masses had a special choir led by Father Chady - including seminarians one night. There was the raising of the traditional stars each night. Guest priests were very inspirational.

Suggestions:

- that the group consider reducing the number of **days to 3 again**, because of the multiplicity of events during December, including rehearsals for other events and preparations for Christmas day.
- that **rehearsal times** be checked with other events such as choir rehearsals, wedding rehearsals, parish reconciliation, etc.

Volunteers:

Volunteers are needed for the many functions going on in December.

A thought for consideration: the same volunteers are often asked to help/participate in each function, particularly musicians. Suggestion: build a larger base of volunteers, recruit more people skilled in various areas to help.

Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 11:

Someone asked if a baby could be baptized at Mass.

It's too late to plan for that at this time. Some priests (but not Father Greg) may be amenable to arranging this.

Santo Nino, Sunday, January 11: This traditional Filipino feast will be celebrated on Sunday, January 11 at 6:30 p.m. Father Chady is coordinating it, and Mabel is helping him with planning, flyers, announcements, etc. It should be advertised in the bulletin.

Improvements on Advent and Christmas:

Advent Wreath and Candles - suggestions:

- **rose colored cloth** in center of Advent wreath, so the purple candles show up better.
- have the **blessing** of the Advent wreath at every Mass on 1st Sunday of Advent.
- more ceremony with the **candles** each week - examples: have the candle/s carried in as part of the entrance procession, or have the priest light the candle after coming in, placing more attention on the progression of each week of Advent.
(There was some disagreement about this last point, in conjunction with rubrics and the sacramentary.)

Emphasis on Christmas: The group agreed that the **primary focus** in December should be Christmas itself. Perhaps more time, energy, and preparation need to be put on the Christmas liturgies for December 24 and 25.

Mass Schedule for Christmas: Suggested changing the schedule to **eliminate the hall Mass**. Decorating and setting up the hall (chairs and altar) for the one Mass is very time-consuming, in addition to working around Bingo.

Of note this year - only about 200 people were at the hall Mass. The best-attended Masses were on Christmas eve in the church at 5, 8, and 10 p.m.

The Christmas day Masses were light, except for the 11 a.m., which was full.

Suggested schedule for next year for **Christmas eve: 4, 6, 8, 10 p.m.**

Outdoor Creche: Suggestion to move it slightly so that the banner is not directly in front of it.

Web Traffic on the SJC website was particularly heavy before Christmas, and was at its lowest the week after Christmas, according to Ed.

Diocesan Mass Schedule for Christmas, with Mass times for other churches, should be posted on our church doors at Christmas time.

There are always a number of people who are misinformed about our Mass times. They can choose another place and time as listed on the diocesan master schedule. Janice will take care of posting this next Christmas.

Chinese New Year: will be celebrated on Sunday, February 8 at the 11:00 Mass.

Father Greg is the primary organizer for this event, and has the committee list.

The Mass will be set up on Sunday morning. Included is a table for the ancestral ceremony.

The ancestral ceremony is unique in the Catholic church (not done in protestant churches).

The Mass this year will not end with the Lion Dance, but with a hymn instead.

The Lion Dance will be done in the hall at the reception, as well as a martial arts demonstration.

The reception setup and serving is very organized and simple, and is all done on Sunday morning. A simple table setup (long rows) and decorations are used. Cecilia is involved in all aspects of this celebration.

Lent: **Schedule:** suggested that we put a big sign with the Lenten schedule outside on top of the existing one near De Anza Blvd. Also, need to trim branches around it.

Little Black Books (Lent) and Little White Books (Easter) will be ordered by Totsie. They are 90 cents each, and shipping is \$30. If we order 200 Lenten and 100 Easter, they can be distributed for an offering of \$1.00 each, and expenses will break even. Recommended terminology: "Suggested donation - \$1.00".

Ash Wednesday is February 25th. Masses are at 6:30 and 9:00 a.m., and 12:15 and 7:00 p.m. Totsie said that we have plenty of old palms/ashes available.

Friday Masses in Lent will not be in the evening, but rather at the **usual time of 8:30 a.m.**, except for the **First Fridays, March 6th and April 3rd, at 9:00 a.m.** Father Greg thought that most people who came to the Friday evening Masses last year were regular morning daily Mass-goers. He did not think many different/new people came to the evening Masses.

Stations of the Cross are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on the Fridays of Lent, except for the weekend of St. Patrick's Day, March 13 (not sure whether Stations are on that day or not). Suggested that Dan ask Allen, our seminarian, and also our priests and some lay persons to lead Stations. Dates for Stations are: Feb. 27, March 6, (13), 20, 27, April 3. One of those dates will be eliminated for the Parish Reconciliation.

Parish Reconciliation has not been scheduled yet. Recommend March 6, 20 or 27.

Soup Supper: Janice would like to arrange it again, preferably on the same Friday as the Parish Reconciliation, starting about an hour and a half beforehand.

Parish Mission: On March 23, 24, 25 (Mon., Tues., Wed.), Father Shawn Aaron L.C. (Legionaries of Christ) will present our parish mission.

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday is April 5

Holy Thursday is April 9

Good Friday is April 10 (Dan needs to find out if Fr. Chady plans to do Taize in the evening on Good Friday.)

Easter Sunday is April 12

Miscellaneous:

Anointing of the Sick: someone asked if we could have anointing of the sick at Mass on Wednesday, February 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. However, Father Greg usually arranges for it twice a year at other times. Having anointing of the sick at a Sunday Mass seems unfeasible, as almost everybody in the congregation comes up to receive it. Totsie will ask Father Greg about it.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 3, (the feast of St. Blaise), at 7:00 in the rectory. Please let Dan know of any items you would like on the agenda.
***Good suggestion: Bring your sourcebook to the meeting!