

Liturgy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 2009; 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: Dan Morris, Cecilia Chang, Mary Ellen Hennig, Ed Johnson, Cynthia Rohrs-Carter, Dick Sherman

Absent: Mary Lou Caldwell, Mabel Hoffman, Tom Kemnitz, Janice LaMotte, Totsie Taylor

Prayer: With the group

Minutes: Minutes from the last meeting on June 2 were approved. No comments.

Baptismal Font: Dan went to a conference at the Marriott Hotel in San Jose in July, and brought back some colored brochures of baptismal fonts. One in particular featured fonts designed and built by a Bay Area artist. There is a possible benefactor from our parish who would donate the funds for a new baptismal font. The cost would be approximately \$10,000. A baptismal font would need to be placed in the same position in the church as the present font. It would need to be self-contained (no outside plumbing), but would have a pump circulating the water, and a heater. Limiting factors: our sanctuary steps are of concrete, and we cannot cover the air intake register behind the font (or it would have to be moved). One design which Dan liked featured a "negative edge" fountain, where the water appears to flow over the top. Problems with our present baptismal font include: rough rocks; too narrow to stand in it, and the necessity for an auxiliary platform for Easter Vigil baptisms. Whichever design is chosen must be approved by the diocese. A suggestion was made to send photos of our present font to the Bay Area artist, and ask his advice, or invite him here for a consultation.

August 15, Saturday, Feast of the Assumption of Mary:

The Mass celebrating this feast day is at 10 a.m. There will be no 8:30 a.m. Mass. Dan will plan some music. Since Mary Ellen and Lothar will be gone, there may be no accompanist. The 5 p.m. Mass that day does not use the liturgy of the Assumption, but the Mass in Ordinary Time.

August 22, Saturday, Mass of Healing:

This Mass will be at 11:00 a.m., and will take the place of the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

September 13 - Celebration of Feast of St. Joseph of Cupertino:

Although the feast day is actually September 18, we will celebrate it on Sunday, September 13th.

Although the primary celebration will be at the 11:00 Mass, with reception afterwards, all the Masses will be more festive.

Janice and Donna Brock are planning to involve the children in procession, possibly carrying balloons or toy airplanes/propellers on sticks. (St. Joseph of Cupertino is the patron saint of aviators and students taking exams). Since St. Joseph of Cupertino was a Franciscan, we can use music that mentions the beauties of creation, such as "All Creatures of Our God and King," "How Great Thou Art", "Morning Has Broken," and "Prayer of St. Francis." There can be a procession of the small statue of St. Joseph of Cupertino to a table in the sanctuary at the 11:00 Mass (Totsie would like to carry the statue). There will be a special parish blessing, and special petitions/prayers of the faithful. Dan will consult with Father Greg about the blessing and extra prayers. The environment will include extra flowers. The outdoor statue of St. Joseph will be decorated. Other ideas (from the June meeting) include: using the liturgy of the feast day of St. Joseph of Cupertino at the 11:00 Mass, having a parade over to the statue outside, following the Mass, having a parish talent show during the reception, and having a special parish song (?)

October 2-4; SJC School Carnival:

As in past years, a shuttle service from to and from Interno Realty will be starting at 10 a.m. That means the earlier Masses (8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.) will have to find other places to park, and may have to walk farther. The school plans to give out coupons for free coffee at the carnival booths at the Sunday Masses that weekend. Although October is the month that the ushers do a head count at all Masses, that weekend will probably not be representative.

October 4 - Children's Liturgy:

The children's choir and the regular 9:30 choir may join forces for the 9:30 Mass.

November 1 - All Saints' Day and Children's Liturgy:

As in years past, there will be a table for the pictures of deceased loved ones in the sanctuary.

Recommendations:

- a multi-level table again (used choir riser last year)
- ask people to bring their picture in a frame (paper photos don't stand up well), to bring 5x7 or smaller, and to put their name and phone on the back of each photo.
- provide 2 books; one with the names of people who died in the past year, and keep it under glass so that no one adds names, as happens every year; the other book for anyone to write in the names of their beloved dead. These books would be on special tables in the sanctuary.

November 22 - Feast of Christ the King:

As in past years, we plan to put up the large cloth banner of Christ the King. Recommendation: not to put it over the large crucifix, but on the wall of the sanctuary. Dan asked that people bring ideas for this Mass to our next meeting. (example: a special blessing, or special music, etc.)

Thanksgiving - Thursday, November 26:

Mass will be at 9:00 a.m. The "9:30 folk group" will take care of the music, as always. It was noted that attendance at the Thanksgiving Day Mass has dwindled in recent years. Mary Ellen volunteered to write an article for the bulletin to bring more notice to this Mass of Thanksgiving. As in past years, people will be invited to bring their own bread and wine that they plan to use at their family dinners, to be blessed at the end of Mass. Since the big drive for Thanksgiving Food Baskets will have just ended, it was recommended that we do not ask for more food donations to be brought to the Thanksgiving Day Mass. In answer to a parishioner's question as to why the American flag is no longer in the sanctuary, Dan explained that it was a directive from Rome after Vatican II.

Parish Directory - End of November:

Photos will be taken of parish members starting at the end of November.

Advent - begins November 29:

Dick Sherman reported that he will distribute the 50 lector workbooks that will arrive at Advent time, for the coming liturgical year.

RCIA will begin at Advent time.

We will discuss Advent at the next meeting.

Miscellaneous:

1. Recommendations for lectors: to scan and practice the list of names before Mass, and ask for help with pronunciation. Dick will send out a reminder. (recent problems included "Msgr." which stands for "Monsignor," and several difficult-to-pronounce names, such as "Alagaratnam." Recommended that the names be listed twice, with authentic spelling, and phonetically. Another suggestion was for the lectors to (gently) adjust the height of the microphone on the podium to their level. The lectors at the youth Mass and the daily Mass should go through the same intake and training as all other lectors.
2. Recommendations for Eucharistic ministers: to be sure that everything needed is set out. Occasionally some one thing is missing, such as a purificator, or even a chalice. Last Sunday at the 11:00 Mass, the gifts of bread and wine were not put on the table for the offertory procession. Fortunately, Totsie was there to rush to the sacristy and bring them back.
3. Recommendation: to have inservices or workshops for all lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and singers. Even "seasoned" ministers can profit from an occasional meeting with refreshers. There could be opportunity for ministers to practice, and receive feedback and suggestions.
4. Organ volume level: because of the placement of the speakers, the volume of the organ music is much louder at the back. It is not apparent to the organist him/her self, or to the singers, necessarily. Dan is looking into a module that would distribute the sound more evenly in the church (a "surround-sound" effect). It would cost around \$3,000.

5. Microphones: It was noted that the volume level of the microphones had been changed. The pre-sets should not be moved, and if they are, for any reason, should be returned to their previous settings.
John Niedermaier has graciously offered to pay for a new sound system or set of microphones for the church. They are especially needed for the music groups, to properly distribute the sound among singers and musical instruments.
He and Dan should discuss the various possibilities for additional equipment.
6. Sound level at daily Masses: Cecilia and Mary Ellen, both regular participants at the 8:30 a.m. daily Mass, noted that people sitting in the main part of the church have difficulty hearing the readings and homily. When the blower is on (for heat or air conditioning), those sitting in the main part of the church cannot hear or understand the readings or homily at all (with the exception of some things from the booming voices of Monsignor Milani or Father Greg).
Another note: the number of participants at daily Mass has increased, and sometimes the chapel is full, plus another 30 or so people in the main church. Mary Ellen has volunteered to take some counts of people in both places each day. This concern should be addressed in the future again.
7. Hospitality (coffee and donuts) on the first Sundays of each month will start soon. Janice and Mabel both work on this committee. Perhaps each of the parish organizations or groups should be asked to sponsor a hospitality Sunday (ie, help pay for coffee, juice, and doughnuts, set them out, serve, and clean up, and this would be after every Mass, ideally).
Most likely, Guadalupe will want to do November, in preparation for their feast day. Recommended: bigger signs for money donations: "Suggested donation for donut is \$1" or whatever the amount decided is...
8. Noise in church: suggestion for ushers or others, especially when a child is making noise or crying - to approach the parents and ask, "May I help you?" This is a gentle and positive way to restore order, without alienating young parents with children.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 in the rectory.

Please bring your sourcebook, and look over the months of September, October, and November.

Please let Dan know of any items you would like on the agenda.