

Liturgy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Prayer: A prayer in preparation for Lent was chosen by Dan.

Minutes: The minutes from the last meeting on November 3, 2009 were approved.

Comments on past events and issues:

- **St. Joseph's music concert on January 9** was well attended and was successful, thanks to organizers Birgit Sauer and Sofyan Nugroho. \$207 in donations were made to the musicians' fund (basket for cash and sale of Lothar's CD's).
Sunday evening musicians want to get another microphone and purchase some more music.
The event could have been advertised more.
Possible post-Easter concert for the future.
- **New microphones/sound system in the church:**
The present sound system for musicians seems inadequate, particularly for the Sunday 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. groups.
Suggestion: inquire about the company that did St. Simon's sound system.
- **Organ speakers** are too loud coming from the back, and not loud enough in the front. Dan spoke about a module made by Rogers Co. for about \$3000 which may remedy that.
- **Hearing Loop:** The hearing loop in the chapel was donated.
To put it into the main church would involve going under the carpet.
- **Sound in the chapel for daily Mass:** Comments have been made by several people that lectors for the daily Mass cannot be heard, particularly in the section of the main church next to the chapel where some people sit. This is especially bad when the blowers are on for heat or air-conditioning.
Suggested remedies: move the lectern to the other side, move the piano and put the 3 big chairs where the piano is now. Ask all daily Mass presiders and lectors to project more. Have a **lector's workshop**. Use the hand-held cordless microphone.

Review of Christmas: At the 4 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve, the church was packed and about 50 people were turned away. Some were abusive to the ushers. It was impossible to seat more people because of fire regulations. It was reiterated that we need to keep the rules about building capacity.

4 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass - overflow

6 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at capacity

8 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass not quite full

10 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass - about 3/4 full

8 a.m. Christmas Day Mass - very light

9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass - about 1/2 full

11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass - full

Holy Communion for the sick/homebound, and for special needs:

It was noted that sometimes the hosts in the little chapel of the rectory taste quite stale.

Some parishioners cannot take any wheat products. It was suggested that we obtain some gluten-free/wheat free hosts, and keep them in a separate, labeled container.

Ordinary Time:

Ordinary Time is from the Baptism of the Lord (January 17) till Ash Wednesday (February 17).

New look for the environment: 4 large green squares on the sanctuary walls.

Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14: Environment could include red and white flowers. Mary Ellen will help Dan find a story/article about Saint Valentine that could go into the bulletin on that day.

An extra blessing could be included at Masses.

Chinese New Year:

Chinese New Year actually begins on February 14. It is the year of the Tiger. St. Joseph's will have the celebration on **Sunday, February 28** at the 11 a.m. Mass. Other people are welcome to join the choir for that Mass. Some songs will be in Mandarin. There is a dispensation to do the Gloria, even though the celebration occurs during Lent. Environment for this feast will be red.

Lent:

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday on February 17.**

An **article** should go into the bulletin asking people to bring in their old palms. Dan needs to order new palms and a new Easter candle - cost around \$150. The old candles are recycled.

Environment will be much the same as last year, with overturned pitcher, purple drapes, etc. The walls will be bare, and probably some bare branches (Manzanita?) will be used.

(Suggestion: to keep the pitcher for Easter, but replace the purple cloth with a light blue one to symbolize the Living Water.)

There will be the large drape behind the corpus of the crucifix above the main altar. Dan emphasized the need to rig some pulleys so that no one

has to climb a ladder that high, as it is extremely dangerous.

Music, the processions and recessions should be more solemn and subdued than usual.

There is no Gloria during Lent.

There was another plea to ask the congregation not to applaud at the end of Mass. A suggested announcement to be made by the song leader before the recessional might be: "We appreciate your gratitude, but would like you to leave the church prayerfully and quietly."

Also, it was suggested that we think of ways to encourage the congregation to join in the singing more. It was noted that many/most do not sing at Mass.

Suggestion: to do a workshop for all our musicians, directors, cantors, and choirs.

Noise, talking, birthday songs, etc. after Mass during Lent are not appropriate.

Ash Wednesday: Masses 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.

There is no Kyrie on Ash Wednesday.

Presiders decide when they will distribute ashes: some do it after the homily, and some after Mass.

Communion ministers will help with the distribution of ashes.

Instrumental music will be used during the distribution of ashes.

Ashes can be taken to hospitals and the home-bound in any small container such as a plastic baggie (not a pyx).

Dan will ask if the SJC school children will do the music for the 9 a.m. Mass.

Fridays during Lent: Reconciliation is not scheduled yet.

The St. Patrick's Day dinner/dance will be on Friday, March 12.

Stations of the Cross will be on the other Fridays of Lent.

There will be 4 Fridays with Stations, and our priests can lead all of them.

Stations of the Cross after Mass on a weekday: A suggestion was made that on one weekday each week during Lent, there be an organized Stations of the Cross service. It could occur immediately after the 8:30 a.m. Mass (around 9:00 a.m.), and could replace the rosary prayers for that day.

Suggestion: to contact the Rosary Group and weekday presiders about this.

Janice has a variety of Stations prayer booklets, or extra Stations booklets

could be ordered (now). It would be especially nice to do it on the weeks when there is no regular Stations (Reconciliation and St. Patrick's celebration).

If this is approved, an article about it needs to go into the bulletin.

Note: Monday would not be a good day - church cleaning.

St. Joseph's Feast Day - Friday, March 19

Perhaps special music, etc. could be done on that day.

Baptismal Font:

it was suggested that a local company (in Oakland) be invited to come to our church, look at the facility, and make suggestions.

Our baptismal font cannot be plumbed - it must be self-contained.

It is possible to partially set a font in concrete.

Our present font is drained weekly. The water is routed through a hose to the ground outside. (It is blessed holy water.)

A person should be able to stand in the font (for Easter vigil baptisms).

Presently, we use a kiddy-pool for Easter vigil.

We also have a small wheelchair ramp that was made when we had a handicapped person receive baptism.

Proposal: Ask if a parishioner would want to donate money to purchase a new baptismal font. Present suggested models with pictures and prices.

Idea: Donna Brock had mentioned buying a baptismal font for the church. If one is bought in her name, her name could be on a plaque on the font.

Emergency Response:

It was suggested that our policies regarding emergency situations in church be drawn up and posted.

Presiders need to be consulted about their protocol (whether to stop Mass).

Ushers and other ministers should receive a copy and some instruction.

Example: role of ushers (or Dan) should include calling 911 on a land line, leading in the paramedics, keeping a path clear, crowd control, etc.

No persons should be in the church aisles.

The chairs and music stands in the alcove by the piano/organ need to be removed, as they obstruct the doors too much.

Suggestion - that ushers receive First Aid training, available through the Red Cross. We could consider hiring an EMT for crowded Masses such as Christmas and Easter. However, it was noted that the Fire Department is only a block away and always arrives within minutes of notification.

There are usually people (doctors/nurses) in the congregation who can help.

We could consider getting a defibrillator, but people would have to be trained to use it.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, February 2, 7:00 p.m. in the rectory.

Please bring your sourcebook. Look over the pages on Lent/Easter.

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

Postscript:

There was a request for other ideas from last year's minutes on Lent. They are as follows:

Little Black Books (Lent) and Little White Books (Easter)

Soup Supper: Janice would like to arrange it again, starting about an hour and a half before Stations.

Communication of Scheduling Information:

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. Suggestion: to have Ash Wednesday scheduling on a large sign visible from the street. Have posters put on the side bulletin board. Possibly make a new kiosk in the front of church with timely postings. Possibly have Lenten information posted in the local newspapers (Cupertino Courier and Sunnyvale Sun). Refer this matter to the Communications Committee. A flyer with Lenten/Easter scheduling will be in the bulletin, and also in a mailer sent to all parishioners.

Distribution of Ashes:

Use the round table with a white cloth, topped by a purple cloth, to have enough space for all the dishes of ashes, etc. The holy water container will be needed to bless the ashes. Have cleansing towelettes available for ministers. The ashes will be blessed at every Mass that day.

Mary Lou Caldwell and Dick Sherman are scheduling ministers for all the Ash Wednesday Masses.

Suggestion: that Dan have the short prayer, used by the ministers when giving out ashes, on small pieces of paper, available for them. Also, the prayer can be e-mailed to the ministers beforehand.

Ashes for the homebound are available for the pastoral ministers (ashes put into small jars with lids or baggies). Contact Father Peter and Marlene Penney.

Environment:

Bare branches with purple drapes

Possibly cacti

Purple or red drape behind corpus of big cross

Purple banner on the right side of wall in sanctuary

Large bare tree with purple drape on left side of sanctuary

Overtured jug with purple cloth in front of altar

Large cross in vestibule with purple drape

Large cross outside on front lawn with purple drape

Baptismal font should retain water, but have a purple drape/ribbon with possibly bare branches surrounding it.

Giving Out Stones/ Nails, etc.

Giving out stones or square nails on Ash Wednesday or the First Sunday of Lent was briefly discussed. The idea is to provide people with a symbol to keep throughout Lent to remind them of Lent, reforming their lives, making sacrifices, and the love of Christ during His Passion.

Lenten Entrance Procession:

It was decided that presiders should process in from the front of church as usual.

RCIA Masses - Cycle A:

Dan will ask Father Greg about alternate gospel readings with multiple readers for the Sunday Masses when Cycle A is used (RCIA).

The gospel reading for Third Sunday of Lent is the Woman at the Well

(possible musical response during gospel: "Give us living water.")

The gospel reading for Fourth Sunday of Lent is the Man Born Blind

(possible musical response during gospel: "I once was blind but now I see.")

The gospel reading for Fifth Sunday of Lent is the Raising of Lazarus

(possible musical response during gospel: "Take the stone away, come out.")

Penitential Rite:

Each presider will decide whether to ask people to kneel for the penitential rite.

The sung penitential rite can be done by either the presider or the cantor/choir.
