

St. Mary Worship Commission Meeting Monday, September 18, 2017

Present: Lorie Bronson, Bill Minney, Sue Mathe, John Mathe, John Raymond, Fr. John Simoneau, and Fr. David Burgard.

The meeting began at 6:40 PM in the Panera Bread meeting room with an Opening Prayer by Fr. David.

The May 8th meeting minutes were reviewed. Three items were clarified: consideration will be given to painting the church steps, rather than installing reflective caution tape on the edges; the congregation's June visit to the choir loft was postponed and will be rescheduled; and the problem of people leaving mass before it has concluded needs to be addressed.

Enrichment

Fr. David distributed a form to get us thinking about parish goals in keeping with the archbishop's "Unleash the Gospel" pastoral letter. Little things can make a big difference. For example, we need better signage to direct visitors to the sacristy where confessions are heard. We also received a copy of the "Prayer to Unleash the Gospel"; please bring it with you to future meetings.

Fr. David also distributed "Fatima at 100" from the May 2017 issue of Columbia magazine for our individual enrichment.

Reports

EMEs/Sacristans: Although Chris was unable to attend the meeting, she sent an email to request that a date be set for EME training. In short, we need more EMEs. It was suggested that current EMEs be asked to identify others who they think could be approached about joining this ministry.

Lectors (Sue): As with the EMEs, a fall date needs to be chosen for training and enrichment.

Altar Servers (Fr. David): Altar server training will begin in October. Attempting to recruit both younger and older students, as well as adults. May need to procure some larger albs.

Hospitality (Lorie): Goal is to enlist at least five families to help with this ministry.

Music Ministry (John): Two Christmas concerts have been scheduled in the church. On Dec. 3rd, the Monroe Public Schools Frenchtown Fiddlers (under the direction of Ann Felder) will present a concert at 7 PM. On Dec. 10, the St. Mary adult choir will perform carols at 7 PM with refreshments to follow in the PLC.

Church Environment (Bill): Sound system is being updated and upgraded. Power switch takes a minute to fully activate.

Review/Update

- **Church flower memorial acknowledgements in Chronicle:** Gratitude needs to be expressed for the summer flowers.
- **Organ fund:** Being set up by bookkeeper.

Items for discussion

- **Parish vision-goals and objectives for worship:** At some point in the future, each commission will be asked for ideas on how we can actualize our vision statement (To Welcome. To Inspire. To transform. To Serve.)
- **Replacing main church doors:** On hold until 2018; current focus is on the sound system.
- **Manner of receiving communion:** Fr. David said, "Simpler is better." People are making the sign of the cross after receiving communion and the focus should be on the host alone.

New Business

- **Funerals:** In November, we will add a new tradition to the mass. A family member will be asked to enter the name of the deceased in a special book. Also, we will look at our available space to see if there is an area where the name of each deceased could be displayed on a small hanging cross for the duration of the year. It was suggested that perhaps the old social hall could be renamed "Heritage Hall"; this might be a good place for the crosses and other memorabilia related to the history of our parish.
- **Signage for sacrament of reconciliation:** Fr. David will look into improved signage.

Upcoming Calendar Items

- **Distribute revised calendar:** Fr. David.
- **Priests away on convocation September 24-28:** No weekday masses.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM on Monday, Oct. 30th at Panera Bread.

Submitted by Sue Mathe 10/19/17.