

Liturgy Committee Minutes  
March 5, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.

The Trinity Cluster Liturgy Committee met in the McCauley Center at St. Patrick's in Monona at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2015. Present for the meeting were: Chairperson Deb Smith, Fr. Nils Hernandez, Linda Bacon, Barb Ruff, Joanne Enyart, Lilia Tinderholt, Linda Miller and Julie Heitland. Absent were: Blanca Schroeder, Connie Leete, and Terri Strutt.

Linda Miller lead the opening prayer with a Lenten reflection. A motion was made by Linda Miller and seconded by Barb Ruff to accept the minutes from the February liturgy meeting. Motion passed.

Fr. Nils lead a discussion on the evaluation of Ash Wednesday services. Masses were held at 9:00 a.m. at St. Mary's in McGregor and 6:45 p.m. at St. Bridget's in Postville. Prayer services were also held at 6:45 p.m. at St. Patrick's in Monona and St. Mary's in McGregor. The morning mass had approximately 50 in attendance. The mass at St. Bridget's had about 200 people in attendance. The prayer service at St. Mary's had over 100 in attendance while over 200 were in attendance for the prayer service at St. Patrick's. Since this is an important celebration for the beginning of Lent, a discussion was held on what we could do to offer more opportunities for people to attend mass. A suggestion would be to add an additional mass. Fr. Nils proposed the following for the 2016 Ash Wednesday services: 7:00 a.m. at St. Mary's in McGregor, 6:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's and 7:15 p.m. at St. Bridget's. A prayer service conducted by Deacon Pat will also be held at 6:45 p.m. at St. Mary's. The Faith Formation students will be participating in all the services. There would not be any other Faith Formation classes that evening.

Fr. Nils presented some information on collaboration and communication based on the Principle of Noble Simplicity that was introduced as part of the Second Vatican Council. The opening mass was about six hours and was very ceremonial. The opening procession consisted of over 2000 bishops along with many priests, deacons and other dignitaries also participating in the procession. Pope John XXIII gave his views on changes that he felt needed to be made within the church. This was a Solemn High Mass was all sung in Latin with candles, incense, and bells playing a very important part. Mozart wrote part of the music for a Solemn High Mass; it was very dramatic. This was to lead to a renewal of the importance of the liturgy. A Low Mass would last for two hours with less singing (the readings would be read instead of sung) and not as ceremonial. The Principle of Noble Simplicity simply means that less is more. It is a simplification of the ceremonial system without compromising Tradition. As a result of Vatican II, we now celebrate a low mass weekly that contains about 10% of what would be part of a Solemn High Mass. If you attend a Pontifical Mass with the Pope as the celebrant, you will get a little flavor of what a Solemn High Mass is like. A simplification of a ritual does not mean that everything is allowed. Only those things that are liturgical are permitted as part of the ritual. Pope Paul VI called this *Novus Ordo* following the close of the Second Vatican Council in 1962. He proposed that everyone use the same form of mass including the music. It is hard to get everyone to agree on the music repertoire in the English speaking countries so some leeway was allowed.

Following refreshments provided by Linda Miller, a quick review was held of Holy Week services beginning with Palm Sunday and ending with Easter Sunday. Cluster Choir practice will be held at St. Patrick's on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. An announcement will be in the bulletin inviting all to attend and participate. Palm Sunday will include a procession from the respective locations at each parish with the blessed palms into the church. Incense will also be used. Holy Thursday at St. Mary's at 7:00 p.m. – Fr. Nils asked that all who have specific parts to arrive 30 minutes before mass for instructions. Spring flowers and some decorating is allowed as it is the beginning of the Triduum. Fr. Nils, Deacon Pat, and the altar servers will strip the altar after the Blessed Sacrament has processed through the church to its altar of repose. Good Friday will be at St. Patrick's at 6:00 p.m. and is a very simple service. There will also be a service at St. Bridget's at 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil will be held at St. Bridget's at 8:30 p.m. Easter Sunday masses will be held at St. Patrick's and St. Mary's. They will have the blessing of the Easter water and sprinkling following the renewal of the Baptismal Promises. This will be following the Homily. There is also a sequence to be sung prior to the Gospel reading. Fr. Nils will check on how many Sundays the sprinkling rite needs to be done following the Easter Octave. The environment for Easter Sunday will be flowers and Easter Lilies. A discussion was held as to who helped with the decorating for the various seasons and feast days during the church year. All parishes have several people who help when there is major decorating that needs to take place. For smaller decorating needs, the environment committee calls the people they need for assistance.

Cluster Communal Penance will be held on Sunday, March 22 at St. Patrick's at 2:00 p.m. Fr. Nils would like two lectors – one from St. Mary's and one from St. Bridget's – to do the readings. St. Patrick's will provide the music. Anointing of the Sick will also be held that weekend at all parishes. Many people were pleased that the sacrament was being offered again. This will take place after communion before the final blessing. Instrument music will be played during this time.

Training for liturgical ministers has been scheduled for Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at St. Patrick's. Commentators will meet at 7:00 p.m.; Lectors at 7:30 p.m.; and Eucharistic ministers at 8:00 p.m. Ministers of Hospitality will be trained at each individual parish at a date to be set. Mass server training for those who are already servers will be on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at St. Patrick's from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Fr. Nils would like to bring back the ringing of the bells. The training will include some information on why we serve by Andrew. The servers will do a practicum (practice walk through) as part of the training. It will be followed with a light lunch. Training for new servers will be in each parish on Wednesday, April 22 at 5:30 p.m. This will be for the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and anyone else interested in serving.

A discussion was held on a unified mass setting for the cluster. Fr. Nils commented that it is very difficult to find one service setting that is in the music issue at each parish. The musicians will look at some of the settings that are available in the music issues and make some recommendations to the liturgy committee. This change will take place with the beginning of Advent on November 29<sup>th</sup>. A decision will need to be made by fall to allow time for the musicians time to introduce each of the parts to the congregation.

Linda Miller led the closing prayer with a reflection and the recitation of the Our Father. The next meeting will be Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. Barb Ruff volunteered to do the opening and closing prayers. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Heitland, secretary