

WORSHIP & SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION
Minutes of Worship & Spirituality Commission
Thursday, January 2, 2020

Present: Father Adam, Pamela Bourjaily, Kathy Donnelly, Karen Hanson, Donna Jondle, Sandy O'Brien, Janet Steenlage, and Fran Zuber

The prayer was led by Janet Steenlage.

Approval of the December 2019 Minutes: Pam Bourjaily moved to accept the December minutes and Fran Zuber seconded.

PAST EVENTS

December 15: Taize Prayer for the Parish

Event was very nice. This event was nicely attended.

December 18: Reconciliation

There were 85 second graders who received first reconciliation. Station set-up worked very well this year; everything went very smoothly. Seven priests attended the dinner.

December 22: Christmas Cantata

This year's cantata was the best yet, the attendance was the largest we have had so far. Luigi Enriquez was the director this year and he did a great job. Thanks to Judy Duncan for her hard work with the Music Ministry and giving our parishioners the chance to celebrate with music.

December 24: Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 p.m. Mass: Over 1000 people attended. Everything went very smoothly.

8:00 p.m. Mass: 575-600 people attended. Did not use the basement this year but did use the overflow rooms upstairs. Everything went smoothly.

It was noted again that two sacristans are needed for each of these Masses. There was a suggestion that EMs should sign up for specific spots at the 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. Masses prior to the day. The standard sign-up process could be used but include upstairs or downstairs and bread or wine in the sign-up process so that there is no confusion during an already hectic time before Mass starts. A reminder could be sent out the day before to remind the EMs what they are doing and where to go.

December 25: Christmas Day Mass

No solid count, but there were some empty chairs during this Mass. Everything went very smoothly during this Mass.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 1: New Year's Day Mass

This Mass is starting to be well attended, approximately 275 people attended.

January 4/5: The Epiphany of the Lord

Paul Bobay has created the chalk/blessing cards for home blessing, there are 550 total cards. Father Adam will bless the cards at the 5:15 p.m. Mass. Janet Steenlage will ask Mary Kelley to alert the sacristans that EMs will be needed to hold baskets for distribution after masses.

January 12: Baptism of the Lord

Baptisms of children at the 5:15 p.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses. Six adults will be welcomed into the Church at 8:30 a.m. Mass. No RCIA candidates this year.

February 2: Candlemas Day

There was a discussion of whether Father Adam would bless candles during Mass on this Sunday.

February 3: Feast of St. Blaise

There was a discussion about when to offer these blessings. It was decided that this could happen after Masses on the weekend of February 2/3. Sacristans will ask EMs to stay after Mass and, along with Father Adam, set up four stations at the regular communion stations to bless anyone who wants to receive a blessing.

February 9: Confirmation Mass at 3:00 p.m.

This year there are 54 students preparing for confirmation.

February 26: Ash Wednesday

There is a soup supper being planned for after the 6:00 p.m. Mass. Janet Steenlage will contact Judy Fritz, coordinator of this soup supper, about possible overflow from Mass in the upper level and how it might impact the soup supper event. Father Adam will contact Kent Campion about setting up chairs.

ART & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – Mary Kelley

Next meeting is January 16. This group is beginning to plan for Lent.

The flowers were beautiful this year. The red and white poinsettias really were stunning. All of the poinsettias and potted greenery will be given away on January 12 after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

There was a discussion about careful flower placement to keep the handicapped railing open for people who need to use it during mass.

PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS – Pamela Bourjaily/Karen Hanson

The St Thomas More revised Welcome statement for the STM Bulletin (approved by the Pastoral Council Nov. 2019) was presented at this meeting. The new Welcome statement is as follows:

NEW PARISHIONERS, We welcome you to St. Thomas More. We are committed to providing a worship space and community for people from all races and all walks of life, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and gender identities. We are happy you are here.

The Pastoral Council would also like to make changes to the Mission Statement. Mission Statement options: To go to the Commissions for review in Jan. 2020—new material in italics.

Option #1:

St. Thomas More Parish strives to be a Parish For All Seasons. We are committed to help all, in whatever season of life, to grow closer to God through alive liturgies, support of family life, strong religious education, and a keen awareness of social justice *including welcoming people of all races, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender expression.*

Option #2:

St. Thomas More Parish strives to be a Parish For All Seasons. We are committed to help all, in whatever season of life, to grow closer to God through alive liturgies, support of family life--- *no matter race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity*--- strong religious education, and a keen awareness of social justice.

Option #3:

St. Thomas More Parish strives to be a Parish For All Seasons. We are committed to help all *welcoming people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and gender identities*, in whatever season of life, to grow closer to God through alive liturgies, support of family life, strong religious education, and a keen awareness of social justice.

There was much discussion about the proposed changes and it was decided that the W&S Commission would send these suggestions:

We would like to keep the original Mission Statement but make the following changes:

1. Change “alive” to “engaging”
2. Write the word ALL in capital letters because we feel that having the word ALL includes everyone and there is no need individually identify any group.
3. Change the second sentence to read: “We are committed to being *an inclusive parish* in whatever season of life . . .”

Our proposal would be:

St. Thomas More Parish strives to be a Parish for ALL Seasons. We are committed to being an inclusive parish in whatever season of life, to grow closer to God through engaging liturgies, support of family life, strong religious education, and a keen awareness of social justice.

OLD BUSINESS

Karen Hanson reported that she had spoken to Michelle Montgomery about having someone come for a Lenten retreat. Michelle thought it was too late to plan anything this year but thinks it is a very good idea going forward. She will check on lead-time to get someone; it probably would take five- or six-months advanced planning to get someone to come. Father noted that Oregon Press has a number of people who will do this type of event and we might also look at someone from our own diocese. For Steve Angrisano there was a free-will offering that brought in \$1600 of the approximate \$3500 cost. We would probably want to start contacting people this summer to get someone for next year. This early planning might also allow us to get the cost added to the budget.

ITEMS FROM FATHER ADAM

Father Adam reminded everyone that the hosts that have already been blessed should be brought to the altar by an adult, either the EM or the sacristan, and not handed to the altar server to bring from the tabernacle to the altar.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 6, 2020

Respectfully Submitted January 12, 2020 by Sandy O'Brien