WORSHIP & SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION

Minutes of Worship & Spirituality Commission

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Present: Paul Bobay, Pamela Bourjaily, Kathy Donnelly, Judy Duncan, Karen Hanson, and Sandy O’Brien.

The prayer was led by Pamela Bourjaily

Approval of the February 2020 Minutes: Paul Bobay moved to accept the February minutes Pamela Bourjaily seconded.

PAST EVENTS

**February 9: Confirmation, 3:00 p.m. Mass**

There were 53 candidates this year. Mass went well, it was nice to have a separate Mass for this event. The flowers were beautiful. It was suggested that the candidates walk faster on the procession into the church.

**February 26: Ash Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Masses**

Good crowd at the 9:00 a.m. Mass but the church was not quite full. The church was full at the 6:00 p.m. Mass. There were 4 ash distributors at the 9:00 a.m. Mass and 8 at the 6:00 p.m. Mass; EMs were ash distributors. There was some confusion because the people seated in the front row walked up to get ashes first, starting distribution from front to back. Normally, our distribution lines start from the back and the front rows would be the last to come forward. Note for next year to ask the ushers to get the line started early from the back so that the people in the front don’t go until the end. Also, next year purchase baby wipes or other hand wipes to have available for EMs to clean hands after ash distribution.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Lent 2020:** Masses at 6:00 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday evenings. First weeks show more people attending on Monday than Wednesday. Stations of the Cross at 8:30 a.m. on Fridays.

**March 30: Reconciliation**

Father Adam will take care of ordering the food for the Priest’s dinner. Judy Duncan and Maricarla Rohret will set up for this dinner.

**April 5: Palm Sunday**

Palms have been ordered. Candle has been ordered. EMs will distribute palms. Weather permitting, Mass will be outdoors. If weather is not good, parishioners will gather in the gathering space and process in to the church.

**Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil**

Judy Duncan will create a sign up for ministers through Signup Genius.

**Holy Thursday, 6:00 p.m. Mass**

Judy Duncan will create a sign up for ministers through Signup Genius. We will need 2 sacristans, 2 extra wine, 2 extra bread, and 1 extra usher for lower level.

Parish Council will wash feet, coordinated by Pam Bourjaily and Karen Hanson. Four stations will be needed for feet washing.

Arts & Environment Commission will “dress the altar” and bring up the gifts after the collection of rice bowls.

Altar of Repose will be in the multi-purpose room. Judy Duncan will create a sign-up sheet and place it in the narthex. Chairs will need to be removed from the multi-purpose room to accommodate the Altar. Procession of Altar of Repose will be thru the North door to circle drive and back in through the front doors. Alternate rain plan will proceed internally.

**Good Friday, 6:00 p.m.**

We will need four EMs for this Mass, no EMs for cups.

**Easter Vigil, 8:30 p.m.**

Father Adam will light the fire for this Mass.

**March 29: Taizé Evening Service 6:00 p.m.**

**April 12: Easter Sunday**

**May 2 and 3: Parish Council Elections**

ART & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – Mary Kelley

Nothing at this time.

PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS – Pamela Bourjaily & Karen Hansen

**July 10-12 (possible dates): St. Thomas More Church Picnic**

A car has been purchased at cost to use in a raffle.

Judy Duncan applied for rights to perform the musical, “Fiddler on the Roof” but she has not received confirmation. If the rights are granted to perform this musical, it will likely be performed each day, Friday, July 10; Saturday, July 11; and Sunday, July 12. The last show would be Sunday evening. The picnic would be after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. *All plans are tentative at this time.*

NEW BUSINESS

There was much discussion about the Coronavirus and proactive steps that St. Thomas More Church could take to protect parishioners.

Commentators at masses this weekend will read the following message from Father Adam: “*Because of the increased attention to preventing the spread of germs, we are discouraging the holding of hands during the Lord’s Prayer and ask you to please be respectful of those who wish to give just a wave or nod at the beginning of Mass and at the sign of peace. As we prepare to begin our celebration, please turn and greet those around you.”*

A note will be included in the bulletin, this is how it reads:

*Health Precautions*

*Questions have come to us concerning preparedness for the possible spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).*

*The Diocese of Davenport has not yet asked that we make any major changes, but it is good to become more aware of ways to prevent any virus or flu to others.*

 *If you are experiencing any flu symptoms, please stay home. The Sunday obligation to attend Mass does not apply to individuals with contagious illness.*

*During flu season, the holding of hands during the Lord’s Prayer is not encouraged. Greeting others at the sign of peace and before Mass can effectively be done with a bow or a nod. Please respect those who choose not to hold hands or shake hands.*

*Communion on the tongue is discouraged at this time.*

*Since we want individuals to make their own decision about reception of the Blood of Christ we are not discontinuing communion under both species. While it is very unlikely that anyone would become infected through the common cup, we ask anyone having a persistent cough to please refrain from the cup. Again, if you are sick, please stay home.*

*All Mass vessels (chalices, patens, and ciboria) are carefully washed in hot, soapy water after each Mass.*

Other discussion items included:

* Other parishes are discontinuing wine distribution, we are not making that decision yet. We will decrease the amount of Blood of Christ prepared at this time.
* A note reminding the EMs who distribute the wine to carefully wipe the cup edges outside and inside before offering the cup to the next person in line. Judy Duncan will write a note for the sign-in room.
* It was suggested that the Baptismal Font should be cleaned each week and treated to kill germs. It was suggested that the same type of cleaning agents that are used in a hot tub or a swimming pool might work to clean and maintain the font.
* It was suggested that the small font on the wall near the north door be removed as the water is stagnant and could easily retain germs.
* Since people will be washing their hands more, it was suggested that more soap and towels be stocked in the bathrooms. More Purell stocked in the hand sanitizer stations if it is possible, it was noted that there is a currently a shortage of this product.
* Chair backs could be wiped down since when people stand during Mass, sometimes they lean on the chair in front of them and this might be a place that germs collect.
* Holding a church cleaning day was suggested. In order to help the custodians “sanitize” the church, asking interested people to meet and clean might be a way to get a lot of cleaning done and minister to a church need.
* We should consider these precautions every year during flu season.

Other new business: Kathy Donnelly suggested that we try to grow our W&S Commission by asking each current member to invite someone who might become a new member. It was decided that the first step should be to ask Father Adam what his vision is for the W&S Commission. We can use his answer to guide our next steps.

ITEMS FROM FATHER CHUCK—Nothing at this time.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 2, 2020

Respectfully Submitted March 5, 2020 by Sandy O’Brien