WORSHIP & SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION

Minutes of Worship & Spirituality Commission

Thursday, September 2, 2021

Present: Paul Bobay, Pam Bourjaily, Joseph Glykys, Karen Hanson, Donna Jondle, Mary Kelley, Mike Kelley, Sandy O’Brien, Janet Steenlage, and Fran Zuber.

The prayer was let by Janet Steenlage.

Approval of the August Minutes: Paul Bobay moved to accept the August minutes and Karen Hanson seconded.

PAST EVENTS

**August 15: Commission Revitalization Meeting**

The Pastoral Council requested formal commission approval of the items below before they vote as a council to amend the by-laws governing commission administration. All commissions were asked to formally vote at their next meeting to approve these items. The bullets below come from the July Commissions Revitalization Committee meeting minutes, with the additional line about the pres-elect chairing the semi-annual meetings resulting from the August meeting. The commission voted on the items below:

* Commission leadership progression: Commission chair terms: 3 years with option for 3-year renewal with commission agreement. It is recommended there be a transition plan when the leadership turns over, with a chair-elect shadowing the current chair during a 6 - 12 months period.
* Twice yearly commission chair meetings to confer and share updates—and to ensure that commissions know which commission is doing what/in charge of what in terms of responsibilities for programming and for events. Meetings will also facilitate ongoing commission collaboration and updates to the responsibility matrix as well as review of events to determine if certain yearly events should be retired / refreshed and if new events/activities should be added. The president-elect of the parish Pastoral Council would be in charge of chairing and convening the twice-yearly meeting.
* Creation of a commission responsibility matrix (internal document for parish staff and commission chairs) to determine which commission is responsible for which event/activity). Creation of the initial responsibility matrix would be a joint commission chair/pastoral council leadership/pastor duty.

The W & S Commission formally voted to support the changes above.

**August 29: “We are Back” Celebration**

This event was well attended, approximately 250 plates of food were served. Commission members suggested something like this be done every year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 2/3: Stewardship Fair**

Sandy O’Brien will attend the Parish Council Meeting September 9 to find out more information and send out an update to the commission members updating plans. Sandy will create a tri-fold display for our table. Volunteers to man the table are as follows:

5:15 p.m. (Saturday) Mass: Paul Bobay and Donna Jondle (if Donna can’t be there

Sandy will come and help Paul after this Mass)

 8:30 a.m. (Sunday) Mass: Janet Steenlage and Fran Zuber

11:00 a.m. (Sunday) Mass: Mary and Mike Kelley and Sandy O’Brien

Sandy will contact Luigi Enriquez (Music Minister) to see if he has the sign-up sheet from previous stewardship fairs for reference.

Specific position needs we are hoping to fill include: Acolytes and Ushers at all Masses and Sacristans for the 11:00 a.m. Mass

**October 24: 11:00 a.m. All Youth Mass**

Michelle Montgomery is organizing students from the St. Thomas More Youth Group to help with all parts of this Mass.

**November 1 (Monday): All Saints Day--Masses at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.**

Mary Kelley will talk to Katie Schneider (Business Manager) for help with creating a Signup Genius for Sacristan, EMs, Acolytes, and Ushers for these Masses.

**November 25: Thanksgiving Day—Mass at St. Mary’s 12:10 p.m.**

This Mass is listed on the St. Mary’s Catholic Church website calendar. We will wait to see if there are changes to this schedule due to COVID.

**November 14: Anniversary of move of St. Thomas More**

We could process in with the EMs carrying candles as we have done in the past. We will check with Father Chuck and revisit this at the October meeting.

**December 8 (Wednesday): Feast of Immaculate Conception**

We will revisit this at the October meeting to clarify Mass times. Mary Kelley will create a Signup Genius for Sacristan, EMs, Acolytes, and Ushers for these Masses.

**December 12: Confirmation Mass (Taizé)**

We will wait for further information on this Mass.

**December 13 (Monday): Communal Reconciliation 7:00-8:00 p.m.**

We will wait for further information to see if this event will take place.

ART & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – Mary Kelley

Mary noted that they had a small group at their first meeting. They are moving toward darker greens.

PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS – Pamela Bourjaily/Karen Hanson/Mick Langguth/Joseph Glykys

There were 26 new families joining St. Thomas More in August. Our total households now are approximately 1400.

Diocesan Appeal this year is $115,000.

The Diocese is doing a capital campaign. This will roll out in three stages. St. Thomas More has asked to be in one of the later groups because of the restart of the Growing More in Faith Campaign.

NEW BUSINESS

Paul Bobay noted that there was a phrase missing on the printed worship aid for the Gloria. Sandy O’Brien will check with Luigi Enriquez to follow up.

Paul Bobay noted that September 9 is the Memorial of St. Peter Claver who is the patron saint of migrants. Paul suggested it would be nice to have special intentions spoken some time in September at Mass. Also, September 20-26 is National Migration Week / 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees and it might be nice to have special intentions to bring attention to migrants during this time. A suggestion was made for Paul to write a note for the bulletin. Members noted that Father Chuck has been mentioning Afghanistan and Haiti in Mass and that a special collection is scheduled to be done September 18/19 for Haiti and Afghanistan. Paul will write a note for the bulletin to be published on the September 11/12 weekend to prepare parishioners for the collection being done the next week.

Joseph Glykys asked if it would be possible to publish the readings in the weekly worship aide. There have been some issues with the sound system which makes it difficult to hear and follow, especially when the reader doesn’t speak directly into the microphone. There was discussion that at St. Thomas More the tradition has been not to have the printed readings in order to support the parishioners listening and paying attention to the reader. Joseph also mentioned that it would be nice to have the written words for younger members of the parish who would like to read along in an effort to stay focused on the Mass. Sandy O’Brien will talk to Father Chuck for his opinion regarding printing the readings in the worship aide and follow up with the commission.

There was discussion about passing the collection baskets due to COVID concerns. For a while usher were using the baskets with handles to do the collection but it was not working very well. Passing the baskets does increase the interaction among people in the church but it was thought that this is limited. There was a suggestion for the ushers to encourage people to sit with at least one chair in between groups of people who are not family member. St. Thomas More parishioners are very conscientious about wearing masks during Mass. Very few people are attending Mass without masks at St. Thomas More.

Mary Kelley asked the commission members to start thinking about the roles that the ministers play at St. Thomas More. Could we find a way to enrich their experiences and help them be better ministers? Could we find a way to encourage them once in a while or thank them for choosing to support the work of our commission? We will revisit this topic again at the October meeting.

ITEMS FROM FATHER CHUCK

None additional at this time.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 7, 2021