

Liturgical Ministry Report 2014-2015

St. John Neumann Liturgy Commission has two arms that function to oversee the liturgical life and ministries of the parish. The advisory arm consists of members who meet regularly to advise on issues from the perspective of the worshipping community. The coordinating arm consists of ministry leaders who schedule, train, and communicate with the various liturgical ministries in the parish. In the spring, both groups meet together with the pastor to review the year, look forward to the year to come, and appreciate one another's contributions to Liturgy Ministry in St. John Neumann Catholic Church. This year we welcomed two new liturgical ministry leaders to the commission.

Following are reports from the liturgical ministry leaders for the year 2014-2015.

Music Ministry: Dave Barkhymer and Linda Heimerl, Ministry Leaders

<u>Group</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Youth</u>
Vesper Singers (Saturday 5:00 p.m.)	26	2
Lumen Christi Choir (Sunday 8:00 a.m.)	27	1
10:00 a.m. Choir	44	6
Noon Ensemble	13	10
6:00 p.m. Group	10	3
Sound System Operators	16	1
Children's Choir (grades 3-6, seasonal)	24	24
Asian Choir (occasional ministry)	<u>15- 20</u>	<u>?</u>
	@180	@50

All except one music group have culturally diverse members other than Caucasian.

Altar Server Ministry: Bernadette and Joe Vitullo, Ministry Leaders

We currently have 102 servers in the ministry, 4th grade through seniors. 5 high school seniors will receive their senior awards in June for their many years of service. In the past year we trained 18 new candle bearers and 7 cross bearers. We continue to offer several training sessions throughout the year to accommodate the schedules of our youth. We continue to have challenges getting enough altar servers for the 6pm and 8am masses. Several altar servers helped with the Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast in the fall. Several experienced servers assisted in the making of a training video that will be available to servers in the near future. This was our second year leading this ministry with all the enthusiastic volunteers. We enjoy working with the youth and their parents.

Greeter Ministry: Kathleen Murphy, Ministry Leader

We currently have 53 last names on the roster. On last year's report there were 61 last names. There are seven last names that include '& family'. One of the '& family' units includes a special needs child. It continues to be difficult to get families with school age children to sign up as a family due to kids' sports/extra-curricular activities that impede the family from committing to a 'schedule'. We continue to lose senior citizens, who have health issues or have moved to senior living arrangements not in Eagan or within the 'parish' area. Fortunately this year, many of the health issues were due to hip/knee replacements and the individual eventually returned to the active roster. Overall, we have fewer 'last names' for all mass times and greeters are scheduled more frequently than in the past. It also takes longer to get volunteers for holy days.

Eucharistic Ministry: Marge Gruenes, Ministry Leader

Eucharistic Ministry continues to be a vibrant ministry and over 400 volunteers participate with great reverence for the Eucharist. This year Fr. Doug oversaw the implementation of several improvements to our procedures for the weekend masses. The plate ministers now return vessels to the altar and the cup ministers return and consume anything remaining in the cup at the vessel table. We trained in 21 new Eucharistic Ministers and we had 28 who did not return last fall because of moving or volunteering for another ministry. While the majority of new volunteers are trained in November, volunteers are trained throughout the year as they express interest. We continue to recruit teenagers and youth after they have been confirmed. Eucharistic Ministers reflect the diversity of SJN membership including people of various ethnic backgrounds and disabilities. Due to retirements, we trained in 7 new EM Team Leaders. Our goal is to continue to develop new Team Leads who can serve as substitutes or be ready to assume leader duties. Training is offered after volunteer recruitment and throughout the year as volunteers express interest.

Lector Ministry: Rich Brown, Ministry Leader

As I finished my 2nd year as Lector Ministry Coordinator (now a seasoned vet 😊). It was another wonderful and busy year meeting and training all the new lectors as well as connecting with all our current lectors. We said good bye to 4 lectors this year. We thanked them for all their support over the years. We trained 6 new lectors who are in the current rotation. There are 77 lectors; one is a high school student. We continue to have challenges with enough lectors for Sat and Sun evening masses. I enjoy being part of this important ministry and look forward the next year.

Liturgy of the Word With Children Ministry: Laurie Larson, Ministry Leader

Liturgy of the Word with Children started the 2014-2015 school year with 21 prayer leaders/assistants and 13 timekeepers. Four prayer leader/assistants and 2 timekeepers had left the ministry from the previous year. At the end of the 2014-2015 school year, we now have 4 additional prayer leader/assistants and 3 additional timekeepers. We also have some shuffling within the ministry, with timekeepers choosing to become prayer assistants when they are old enough, and some prayer leaders and timekeepers having scheduling conflicts, but asking to move to the substitute list to remain in the ministry. This ministry has a diverse mix of ages and cultures. We have prayer leader/assistants who are teens, parents of LOWC attendees, and people whose children are grown. Timekeepers include Faithful Shepherd students as well as adults. Prayer leaders, assistants, and timekeepers are both male and female of all ages. Although I do not personally know everyone, I do know there are at least 3 cultures represented in this ministry. A rough and conservative estimate over a few weeks shows that there are at least 70 children participating in this ministry each week. Ten o'clock mass has had up to 80 participants alone on a busy Sunday. This past year the tabernacle was added in Emmaus Chapel, so leaders have taught the children to genuflect when they enter their pews.

Sacristan Ministry: Dorothy Guanella, Ministry Leader

During this past year we had 11 active Daily Sacristans, 2 males and 9 females. (The ministry added a male daily Mass sacristan). There are 21 Weekend Sacristans on the roster. Seven of them are males, 14 females. Out of the 21 Sacristans there are two married couples. This year we implemented updated sacristan procedures. We are currently revising our schedule of weekday sacristans for the updated Mass times beginning July 1. I am grateful for the flexibility and dedication of our Sacristans.

Daily Lector Ministry: Dorothy Guanella, Ministry Leader

We have 13 dedicated full time lectors on the schedule for daily Masses. Five of them are males and 8 are females. I am grateful for the flexibility and dedication of our weekday lectors.

Usher Ministry: Diane Strand, Ministry Leader

I am new to the Usher Coordinator role and I am so glad to be involved with coordinating this ministry and so thankful for the wonderful ushers! We have 123 total ushers, many of diverse cultures, 11 children, and 1 with special needs. When we receive our shared ministry list in the fall we schedule training sessions and as volunteers come forward during the year they are trained individually. Since January of 2015 4 new volunteers were trained in as ushers.

Art and Environment Ministry: Larry Mustonen, Ministry Leader

In 2015 many small but significant changes were made to the worship space environment. In the fall new wooden pedestals were made. Various heights (from 6 to 24 inches) to accommodate the 4 candles at Advent, 2 side tables for the presider chairs and other sizes ranging from one to two feet were created from new materials and recycling older peel and stick tiled pedestals. This eliminated much of the need to "cover" plant stands with material leading to cleaner less-cluttered look. The ministry has about 6-8 regulars. Volunteer assistance increases at Christmas and Easter to 15-20 people. The Team meets Mondays or Saturdays prior to a seasonal environment shift. The Team had a great meeting offsite this year to plan the Christmas season and foster community.

We received many appreciative comments about the Christmas environment this year. New slim style pre-lit trees were donated for the worship space and old, donated and decrepit trees were discarded. New small wreaths were created and wiring to light them installed along the back beams.

Many bins of material that were no longer usable were donated to Goodwill or senior centers for crafts. Several large floral arrangements (Easter) were created and will be stored for reuse, helping the Environment Team to accomplish their ministry in a timely fashion. The chapel had many changes, too, including the addition of the tabernacle and new tables. In the gathering space, new furniture was purchased in 2014, which provides a lightness and airiness to the environment while providing great comfort and conversational areas.

Art Committee: Virginia Stillwell, Staff Contact Person

There are 5 members of this ad hoc committee. They are available to meet for any art related project or discernment process. This year Connie Larson created a Book of Founders for Emmaus Chapel using her own original water colors and calligraphy. One of the members plans to catalog the sacred art at St. John Neumann. In response to an inquiry from this committee we were informed that St. John Neumann has \$5,000,000 of insurance to cover any loss or damage to fine art in the building.

Celebratory Robes Ministry: Joyce Medrud, Ministry Leader

Two new volunteers joined this ministry this year. There were five total ministers. All server robes are laundered several times each year. When wax is spilled on a robe we receive a phone call to launder it. We also do light mending and contact staff if a robe needs to be replaced.

Funeral Ministry: Pat Leuer, Ministry Leader

Generally Pat Leuer provides sacristan ministry and works with Pastoral Care to during funerals. When she is not available two other sacristans are trained to serve both in the main worship space and in Emmaus Chapel. Art Hendricks schedules adult funeral acolytes.

Eucharistic Adoration and Devotions: Marie Whelehan, Ministry Leader

In the last year our list of committed adorers has grown from 50 to 60. These are people who have committed to specific times for at least one-half hour per week or to be a regular substitute. The walk-in numbers have continued to increase as well. The addition of a tabernacle in Emmaus Chapel has also increased simple Adoration in our chapel during the hours when the Blessed Sacrament is not exposed. It has also greatly facilitated exposition and reposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

In 2013 we increased our hours of exposition from 16.5 to 20.5 hours. Beginning July 1st, 2015, we will again be increasing our hours of Eucharistic Adoration from 20.5 hours per week to 27 hours, with new times on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. We are currently in the process of recruiting more committed adorers to assure a minimum of two for each half-hour. Throughout the year we promote this devotion and make known our ongoing need for committed adorers through weekly bulletin articles.

Rosary for Life will continue, but move from Monday evenings to Monday mornings preceding the 12 noon Mass. This year we also added First Saturday Devotions, which have been very well received. Two Cenacle of Divine Mercy groups continue to meet at St. John Neumann. On Divine Mercy Sunday, the Second Sunday of Easter, we had approximately 175 people attend our special afternoon devotions.

Lay Presider Ministry: Yvonne Krisnik, Ministry Leader

Lay Presider ministry has eight volunteers who lead word and communion services at the Commons each month and any other time the parish needs them. Several other people have also led prayer events this year, including two new ministers. Jo Casey, Peter Wratkowski, Pat Nepl, Bernie Joyce, and Joe Duszka led Stations of the Cross. Laraine McKenzie was prayer leader for Taizé Prayer. Yvonne Krisnik led the Blessing of Animals.

Linen Ministry: Sister Patricia Regal, Ministry Leader

Linen ministers launder purificators and linens from both sacristies weekly during an assigned month. We have 13 linen ministers this year – 12 women and one teen. Three are new this year: Barb Welp, Kay Russell, and Kathy Masberg. This year we added white linen purificators for the main priest's chalice and are teaching one another techniques for laundering and ironing them, which can be a challenge. We also have to remember to check that there are enough supplies for Sunday and that is easy to forget. This is a delightful group of women who help each other out when needed. Charity in action!

Plant Ministry: Barbie Miller, Ministry Leader

This year five new people signed up for the ministry. Three ministers have served for two years; one for three years; two for four years; one for five years; three for six years. We have a total of 14 volunteers. One child "signed" up and was helped by her mom for her allocated month. Last summer I repotted a number of palms. Our ministry is diversified by age - a span of at least 60 years – and cultures – at least three were born outside of the USA.

Seasonal Booklet Team: Virginia Stillwell and Bill DeRosier, Ministry Leaders

This new ministry has been a Godsend to the maintenance staff. Each week these ministers clean trash from the pews and arrange hymnals and seasonal booklets. Seasonally they remove and store the old booklets and place booklets for the new season in the pews. Approximately 16 adults are participating, five of whom have children who assist them.

Taizé Prayer: Virginia Stillwell and Dave Barkhymer, Ministry Leaders

Again this year we collaborated with other churches to offer South Metro Taizé Prayer monthly on Mondays at 6:30pm. Churches are Mary, Mother of the Church, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran, Rosemount United Methodist, and – new this year – St. Joseph's Catholic Church. St. John Neumann hosted twice. Approximately 50 people attended each month, age 10 to senior citizens. Music ministry played a large role in these prayer services. Another 6-8 parishioners assisted with liturgical roles, set up, and clean up. The churches have decided to discontinue this effort. All church representatives expressed the hope that we collaborate on some other prayer opportunity this coming year. Our parish Taizé Prayer Team will be happy to assist if in the future SJN decides to resume having Taizé Prayer during Lent and Advent.

Wedding Coordinator Ministry: Teresa Radermacher, Ministry Leader

There are three wedding coordinators including Theresa Radermacher, the wedding director. The 2014 wedding season was close to a record year. We had 25 weddings at SJN last year. With the exception of a few weekends, there was a wedding every Saturday from May 3rd thru Oct 23rd and we had 2 in November. Most went off without a hitch! We maybe have one or two a year in the Emmaus Chapel.