

Liturgy Committee Meeting
St. John Neumann Catholic Church
September 16, 2015

Present: Fr. Doug Ebert, Fr. Spencer Howe, Larry Mustonen, Anne Schwartz, Linda Heimerl, Mary Hoffman, Mary Margaret Hoden, Don Creighton, and guest, Kathy Browning. **Absent:** Marge Gruenes and Laraine MacKenzie.

1. Prayer. Fr. Doug

2. Housekeeping.

- a. Our meeting dates work for Fr. Doug. His goal is to keep all meetings to about 1 ½ hours in length. Our priests will plan all liturgies as defined by the new missal.

3. Committee Mission Goal. No updates to the Committee Mission Goal.

Our goal is to provide the celebration of the Eucharist and well-planned worship services which welcome all, effectively proclaim Christ present among us in word and sacrament, invite active participation by all members, and send us to bring the gospel message to the world so that parishioners may be initiated and sustained in the Body of Christ.

4. Pastoral Council Update.

- a. Marge Gruenes is our new council liaison; Marge was not able to be present.

5. Liturgy Office Report.

- a. Fr. Howe found a set of previously used wooden Stations of the Cross from St. Francis of Assisi Church in Allentown, PA, which formed part of St. John Neumann's Diocese. The stations incurred some minor damage from transport and are being repaired by an artisan at St. Patrick's Guild. Funding for the purchase of the stations has been received. The stations have been received; the committee had the opportunity to look at them.
- b. There is a date conflict on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. First Reconciliation will take place in the main worship space at 11am; the Art and Environment Committee had planned to change the environment that morning. Linda Heimerl and Larry Mustonen will resolve the problem offline.
- c. Fr. Doug encouraged the committee to encourage participation in our ministries, especially among younger parishioners. We were also encouraged to invite parishioners and ministry participants to attend our meetings. Fr. Doug would also like to do a video to explain each ministry position.
- d. We will be retaining our present tabernacle in the worship space. Larry Mustonen showed the committee samples of materials that might be used to raise and/or renovate the present pedestal. A mock up for height determination will be constructed.
- e. Fr. Howe suggested the idea of moving our present crèche into the main worship space, or the possibility of finding another, smaller crèche for the worship space, leaving our present crèche in its current position. The committee also considered having the presider place the Christ Child in the manger at our Christmas liturgies. This topic will be added to our November 18 agenda.

- f. Fr. Doug said our present baptismal liturgy will be simplified. Godparents will be more clearly acknowledged and music will be simpler. Group Baptisms will still be done after the noon Mass.
- g. Fr. Doug announced that all commissions are now to be called committees. Our priests will now be present at all meeting to enhance communications. One of Fr. Doug's goals is to increase cooperation and positive relations with all sacristans.

6. Budget.

- a. Linda Heimerl is supervising the budget at the present time. She is seeking more detail on our expenses. There was discussion of the actual membership of the parish. It has been established that we have about 2875 official households registered, with at least 1,000 more inactive households.

7. Staffing.

- a. Our staffing situation is stable for about the next month.
- b. The Music Director position has been posted and a search committee has been formed. Review of applicants has begun. Staff member Naomi Stout has also resigned.

8. Crucifix for Worship Space.

- a. Funding for the purchase of a crucifix was donated for the main worship space. A crucifix has been purchased from St. Pat's Guild. Concern was expressed that the committee was not consulted on this purchase; Fr. Doug explained that he had been consultative and no way of knowing that he was expected to contact the liturgy group. He is now aware of the nature and mission of the Committee.
- b. The crucifix is now under construction and may be installed as early as October. The crucifix is approximately six feet tall and will be suspended above the tabernacle but lower than the black granite wall. (Note: Larry rechecked the measurement. Each block is 49 inches. Two blocks would be 98". That leaves about 26" but about 18" above the tabernacle.)

9. Email of August 11 – Bowing/Sign of Peace.

- a. Fr. Doug sent an email to Linda to forward regarding proper reverence for the tabernacle. We are to bow to the altar during Mass, to the tabernacle upon entering or exiting. It was suggested that this could be a topic for the bulletin. Fr. Doug he is considering that when the time is right.

10. Incarnation Cycle Discussion.

- a. It was agreed we would continue our custom of having all the Advent wreath candles processed in on the First Sunday of Advent and then blessed when they had been placed. Individual candles will not be processed in on subsequent Sundays.
- b. The same seasonal booklet from last year will be used; we will not have Taize prayer during Advent this year.

11. Goals and Objectives.

- a. The present Goals and Objectives will be deleted from the parish website, since they are now outdated. Dr. Doug would like to see a simplification of the process for writing and following our goals.

12. Other.

- a. The committee membership and ministry list was reviewed and updated.
- b. Next committee meeting: November 18, Adult Ed Room.
 - Need volunteers for treats for the other 4 meetings.
 - i. November
 - ii. January
 - iii. March
 - iv. May