

MINUTES FOR LITURGY COMMITTEE MEETING OF AUGUST 23, 2011

Present: Father Jun, Deacon Gary Harmeyer, Kay Balzer, Elenore Castellano, Francie Golden, Kathy Krecker, Karen Jennings, Cyndy Pannullo, Agatha Peterson, Sylvia Chapa, Michelle Rack and Dot Traub. The meeting was called to order by Co-chairman Dot Traub at 7:40 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Elenore Castellano led the group in The Lord's Prayer.

Minutes: Minutes for the meeting of June 28 were reviewed and approved with one correction.

Continuing Education: Deacon Harmeyer summarized "Practice #1: Lead Worship from a Place of Deep Prayer" from the book *Nurturing Spiritual Depth in Christian Worship*. Sylvia and Dot reported on Mark Hoggard's Workshop on "Year B: The Book of Mark." As Mark's Gospel is the shortest, Mr. Hoggard explained that readings from the "Book of John" supplement the Year B Gospel readings. Dot and Sylvia high-lighted one of Mr. Hoggard's sessions entitled "Gospel Chaos." It was noted that Mr. Hoggard's emphasis on prayer and quiet contemplation dovetails with the discussion about prayer in the *Christian Worship* book. It was suggested that the Committee consider planning a retreat to include a guest speaker, perhaps Mark Hoggard or Father Michael Himes. At the September meeting, Michelle Rack will give a summary of the chapter entitled "Practice 2: Consider What Happens to the Energy" from the *Christian Worship* book.

Subcommittee Reports:

Acolytes: Cyndy reported that, at Father Jun's suggestion, she has ordered cinctures in colors of the liturgical seasons for the altar servers. Last month, 12 teens from the parish attended the Diocesan Youth Conference; seven of the attendees were altar servers. Cyndy is planning a September training session which will focus on the *New Roman Missal*.

Arts and Environment: Elenore Castellano reported that her committee is preparing an arrangement for Bishop Camilo Gregorio's visit this weekend. Members complimented the committee on the arrangements in the Garden Area over the summer.

Children's Liturgy: Cyndy reported that new leaders are needed. She is sending notes home with the children seeking parent volunteers. She noted that there has been a problem with leader attendance over the summer.

Communion Bread Bakers: Kay Balzer reported the Communion bread will be changed from "rounds" to "squares." She indicated that Fay Fudala did an excellent job coordinating the bread bakers in Kay's absence. Fay has been placing a reminder call to the assigned bakers each week. Two replacement bakers are needed.

Eucharistic Ministers: Agatha Peterson reported that the ministry has lost an 11:00 coordinator, dear friend Jan Bankowski. David Doss has been serving as coordinator at 5:30 and Mark McGlade has been serving at 9:00 when he is available. Mary Carole Lynch has been serving at 11:00. Sonya McKechnie still is in training due to frequent travelling over the summer.

Lectors: Michelle Rack reported that the new *Workbook for Lectors* has arrived and is being disseminated to the lectors. Michael McDonough, a high school Senior who was confirmed in April, has volunteered for the ministry and will begin serving this Fall.

Liturgy Planners: Pris Poulin reported that she has prepared a new form for use by planners. Mary Anne Menoche has shared suggested prayers from a resource entitled "Prayers for Life." The new workbook and "Pastoral Patterns" resource books are being ordered for the new liturgical year. There was a discussion about ensuring that the Prayers are updated when important events occur between the initial preparation of the Prayers and the actual Mass dates. Sylvia noted that the Cantor's introductions have been thoughtful and concise.

Music: Sylvia thanked Father Jun for the life he has brought to the liturgies, for his thoughtful homilies, humor, beautiful voice, and for the obvious love he has for his vocation. He has brought renewed vigor to the parish. She reported that the Folk Group has decreased in numbers because the teens are scattered among so many different high schools and are busier than ever. She has asked some Folk Group teens to speak at Mass to recruit new members. Jill Caynor, the director of the Youth Choir, also is seeking members. In order to avoid a conflict with Christian Formation classes, Jill has moved the Youth Choir rehearsals from Monday to Tuesday evenings. The Family Choir rehearses on Thursdays from 7:30-9:00. Sylvia will hold a training session for cantors this Fall. There will be a National Pastoral Musicians (NPM) meeting to be attended by representatives

from 6-10 parishes at St. Nicholas this weekend. The topics will include new compositions and arrangements for music for the *New Roman Missal*. Dr. Elaine Rendler-McQueeney will be the guest speaker. The 2013 NPM National Convention will be held in Washington D.C.

RCIA: Karen Jennings reported that there are six in this year's program, four adults and two children. She has been holding "Inquiry" meetings over the summer. In July Karen met with this year's neophytes to discuss how they can grow into the Church ministries. Two of the neophytes are moving with their families from Virginia Beach.

Sacristan: Francie Golden reported that new committee members are needed, as there are only three at this time. While new volunteers are being recruited, Elenore offered to have members of the Arts and Environment Committee assist with Sacristan duties.

Ushers: Kathy Kreckler was pleased to report that several young people have inquired about serving as ushers. It was observed that the ushers did not hand out holy cards to visitors at one of the 11:00 Masses a few weeks ago. Sylvia commented that some of the cantors still are uncomfortable asking visitors to stand at the beginning of Mass, but she is working with them. Kathy will remind ushers to hand out holy cards to visitors and to wear identification tags at all Masses.

Reports/Discussion:

Welcome Father Jun: Father Jun was welcomed to the parish and to the committee. Father led a discussion about the liturgies at St. Nicholas. He commented that the liturgy overall is very good. He is pleased with the proclamation of the Word and the music. He has some suggestions for enhancing deep contemplation and spirituality during Mass. He inquired about the use of incense, the traditional "aroma of worship." He was advised that use of incense is limited primarily to Holy Thursday at St. Nicholas because it causes respiratory problems for some parishioners. Father Jun would like to see incense used at Christmas and Holy Week Masses as he believes that it enhances the worship experience. He also noted that the size of Communion bread pieces often are too small, a problem which likely will be corrected by the using "squares" instead of "rounds." There was further discussion about the cinctures for acolytes as a means to incorporate liturgical colors.

Stewardship Weekend on September 17-18: Deacon Harmeyer and Michelle Rack reported on the Stewardship Committee's plans to improve Stewardship Weekend. Changes include: expansion of the ministry tables and exhibits to the Commons; use of large signs to identify the ministries; a refreshment table; flyers explaining the ministries and providing contact information; revised sign-up sheets seeking e-mail addresses; and a follow-up meeting to ensure that those who volunteer are contacted by ministry representatives. In addition, the various ministries are invited to give a "Stewardship Minute" at the end of Masses in August and September. The Liturgy Committee's scheduled weekend is September 3-4. Michelle's suggested "minute" language was approved by the committee and will be delivered at the 5:30 Mass by Dot Traub, at the 9:00 by Cyndy Pannullo, and at the 11:00 by Agatha Peterson.

Children's Mass: Michelle Rack has received a suggestion that the parish organize special Masses for children where they proclaim the readings, lead the music (Youth Choir), carry the gifts and serve as ushers, etc. It was decided that such a liturgy, if planned, would fall under Christian Formation and would be directed by Cyndy Pannullo. "Teaching Masses" for children also were discussed.

Policy Regarding Flash Photography: St. Nicholas has adopted a policy wherein flash photography in the Worship Area is strongly discouraged, but not forbidden. Coordinators of baptisms and weddings will be asked to encourage family members to refrain from using a flash, and to suggest the landing at the top of the steps as the optimal place for picture-taking. This policy will be reconsidered if problems arise.

Announcements: The Parish Life Committee has placed a new "Suggestion Box" in the Commons. The suggestions will be reviewed by the Parish Life Committee Chairmen and distributed to the appropriate ministries.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 27 at 7:30 p.m., after 7:00 p.m. Mass

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by Michelle Rack, Co-chairman