

## Liturgy Committee Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2013

Present were: Peggy Patrick, Cora LePorin, Teri Thesing, Nanette Navarre, Fr. Michael, John Roche, Katherine Christensen & Trudy Conway

The meeting opened with a Prayer for Discernment, read by Trudy.

### Old Business:

Still needed to review Lent through Easter season, even though Triduum is scheduled to take place at Mt. Vernon next year. Some members of the committee had been unaware of this decision and there was a lengthy discussion, showing great disappointment about this decision, and the fact that the decision was made without input from this committee.

Regarding Easter, it was stated that Vigil is just too long and something must be done to encourage better attendance, to include more people. It might be necessary to reduce the number of readings. It was felt that holding Triduum at Mt. Vernon is counter-productive to better participation for members of St. Clare. Perhaps in the future, it would be better to work on collaborative planning, rather than moving Triduum to the smaller parish.

It was felt that there is a great need for a show of hospitality, especially on big feasts, but all the time as well. Ushers need more training. Maybe musicians (because of their unique position up front) can also be aware of seating needs at crowded liturgies and help by making announcements at the microphone about "squeezing in" or making open seating spaces known.

This led to a discussion of recent Baptisms and ideas for hospitality & inclusiveness of the whole assembly. Fr. Michael has already been inviting the whole assembly to move closer to the font, but only a few people actually come forward. Suggestions were made to encourage this movement, and to invite the children, especially, to gather close to the font. Other suggestions, regarding Baptisms: Baby can be held in the air for all to see; baby can be carried (older children or adults would walk on their own) around the assembly for everyone to bless & welcome, before or after baptism; parents and godparents should be asked to face the assembly and respond loud enough for everyone to hear. Fr. Michael expressed some frustration in trying to get parents to meet with him before Baptism and to show up early on the day of Baptism. It was agreed that at least one instructional meeting should be a requirement prior to Baptism. Perhaps other young parents could instruct new parents; Baptism instruction does not have to wait until just before Baptism/can take place as early as before the baby is born. In the fall, we will recruit young parents and offer them training to be Baptism instructors.

Have we done a good job keeping the Easter celebration going through the whole season? There was a positive response to sprinkling and the movement to the font to get holy water. It was suggested that next year, on the weekend of the Baptismal readings, assembly could be encouraged to bring a copy of their own Baptismal certificate or Baptismal candle, which could be used/displayed in various ways. Flowers were nice for Easter, thanks to Myong. Suggestion to ask for donations of actual potted flowers, rather than money donations for flowers. It was suggested that using the closing Alleluia throughout the Easter season would help keep the joyful spirit alive. Katherine would like to see the Regina Coeli used more.

Lector training occurred since last Liturgy meeting, was scheduled at the last minute. Will schedule another training in the near future, with more advance notice. Two, out of a possible 5 interested people showed up for this training. More lectors are needed, but the summer schedule will be completed soon.

(Meeting was already running long, so problems with intercessions not arriving on time and a discussion of funeral needs were postponed to a later meeting.)

### **New Business:**

Ascension/Mother's Day/May Crowning this coming Sunday, May 12. Fr. Michael has spoken to 2 of the first Communion children. After mass, Luke will carry the crown and Miranda will place the crown on the outdoor statue. (Isidro will lift her, so we don't have to use a ladder.) Myong has agreed to make the crown. Keith and Mary Ann Johnson, who were instrumental in the restoration of the statue, have been notified and will participate. The choir is prepared to sing *On This Day, O Beautiful Mother* as we gather around the statue. Mother's Day breakfast will take place immediately after the crowning.

Pentecost: There will be announcements this weekend asking for donations of flowers in red or white for Pentecost weekend. Cora agreed to write up the announcements, and she and Peggy will set up the environment on that Saturday morning. There are red hangings that can be used. Nannette agreed to make some phone calls to get people to read prayers of the faithful in different languages: Myong, Isidro, Bob Rucker, Elise. Peggy will check with Elise to see if the prayers can be ready early and if not, we can use something from Fr. Michael's standard book. Each petition will be read twice, once in a foreign language and again in English, so as to avoid having them written out on paper for the assembly.

Diocesan Anniversary will be June 2, in Lexington. Need to be making announcements so people can attend if they want to.

Confirmation, June 15: Music is planned, but has to be approved at diocesan level. John will coordinate a reception to be held after the Confirmation mass.

Music: Ed Forester has agreed to coordinate music on an interim basis after Trudy steps down in June. He will focus on recruiting additional participation, in order to have music at every weekend liturgy and so current musicians don't burn out. There has been some interest in forming a search committee, who would relieve Fr. Michael of some of the burden of finding a new Music Minister. Fr. Michael will look into this. Teri would like to be part of that committee. Fr. Michael and Trudy will work on a revision of the job description.

It has been requested more than once that this committee have a discussion on the vision, function & responsibilities of a Liturgy Committee, but this item was placed at the end of the agenda and the meeting ran long. Everyone was tired. Teri asked that this be the primary discussion at the next Liturgy meeting. It was also stated that not only does the Liturgy Committee need to help bring life to our celebrations, but that perhaps a parish-wide renewal of some sort is in order, to begin in the fall. Summer is the appropriate time to be considering program possibilities. Peggy had come across a program called Good News People. Web site: [www.goodnewspeople-jfm.org/](http://www.goodnewspeople-jfm.org/) There are many other possibilities that could also be reviewed and considered.

Next Liturgy meeting will be Thursday, June 13 at 6:30 pm. (Music will not be represented at that meeting due to a final Confirmation rehearsal that night.)

The meeting closed with the Diocesan 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Prayer.