

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Pastoral Council

March 2, 2016

Minutes

Attending: Fr. Vinnie, John Glancy, Mark Dudziak, Kate Mason, John Flaherty, Deacon Frank Tremblay, Nigel Timothy, Owen Devlin, Leo Bernotas, Lynn Jacobs, Mike Jaillet, Claire Ramsbottom, Carol Roberto, Mary Herx-Morrill

Opening prayer

Nigel

Easter planning

Staff

- Deacon Frank discussed the staff mtg where details of the Easter Triduum services were reviewed along with the roles of the different servers that will be taking part.
- Planning cards have been placed in the church with the schedule of all of the Lent and Easter services.
- Evening prayer has been well attended (35 to 40 people each time) and feedback so far has been very positive.
- Fr. Vinnie indicated that while the archdiocese has sent a notice for Easter Vigil services to begin no earlier than 8:00, the OLOS service time had already been set and communicated for 7:30, so this will remain in place.
- For Palm Sunday, all Masses will include a procession from O'Connell Hall.
- John noted that lectors and altar servers have been processing in this year during Lent, different from previous years, but past procedures had never been discussed with Fr. Vinnie prior to the start of Lent.
- The use of Latin during Lenten Masses has been a noticeable change over past years. The approach wasn't discussed prior to the start of Lent, but was one of Alan's ideas to help enhance worship. Fr. Clooney has offered to chant the Latin lead-in to these prayers if desired. This will likely be one of the topics to be considered by the new Liturgical Commission during next year's Lenten preparations.
- Rehearsal was held last week for Stations of the Cross on 3/18
- The Christian Services Commission is planning to have the parish take tickets this weekend to prepare Easter baskets for 20 kids at Evelyn House. In response to the higher demand for tickets, the CSC is also considering adding cards to purchase Easter plants for homebound members of OLOS. This could be the start of an outreach program to these parishioners, which the CSC would like to see expand over time.

Preparing for the Liturgy Commission meeting

Deacon Frank / all

- The first meeting will be held Sunday (3/6) at 4:00PM, and will be an open informational meeting for anyone who may have interest. Lynn will include an announcement in the newsletter tomorrow as a reminder. Fr. Vinnie will prepare materials for the meeting, and will follow the mission statement found below.
- The goals for the meeting, besides informing people about the commission, will be to get an understanding of people's various talents and abilities, come away with a list of those who are interested in continuing on with the commission, and set up a schedule for the next meeting. The commission will begin by working on the celebration of Pentecost and the Ordinary Time which follows.
- Other comments on the plans for the Liturgy Commission:
 - Consider how much diversity we have among those interested, and potentially invite other parishioners of different backgrounds in order to gather ideas from various traditions and cultures as long as they are appropriate to the liturgy
 - It will be made clear that the commission is to support liturgy planning and not try to dictate what is done
 - Many issues may be considered by the commission, including setup of the church (position of the altar and tabernacle), future hymnals (current books are very new), etc.
 - It was mentioned that BC will be offering an online course on liturgy planning starting at end of March – may be useful for commission members or leaders

- A question was raised about having a period of reflection after communion, and Fr. Vinnie indicated that it is open to the preference of the celebrant, but often depends on other things happening at the end of Mass, e.g. announcements, special blessings, etc.

Update on staff roles

Fr. Vinnie

Volunteer Coordinator

- The staff has looked closely at Faviola's role, and divided some of the responsibilities among staff members.
 - Lectors/ministers/altar servers are now under Deacon Frank and Fr. Vinnie
 - Catholic Appeal duties are now under Miguel Aguilera
 - Website, social media, office, coffee hour, and new registrations are now under Lynn
- Social activities were a very big part of the role, but it may be time to consider having a social commission to plan the details of activities – will need someone who is sociable and knows the community well to head up this commission
- We still need someone to organize the many people who come together to support our broad range of activities other than social – very wide expanse of duties.
- The staff is crafting a job description hopefully in time to publish on Palm Sunday. Goal will be actual coordination of volunteers, with a target of 10 hours/week. Need to organize training of adult leaders, maintain CORI's, keep volunteer database of CORI status, and track past activity experience. Will also include coordination of upcoming events – volunteer appreciation event in April, parish picnic this summer, and Mass at the Lake in September.

Deacon Frank

- Frank already wrote a draft contract based on archdiocese and OLOS guidelines, which includes the following areas:
 - He will be employed full-time outside the parish and only serve OLOS nights and weekends.
 - He will serve in the ministries of Charity, Liturgy, and the Word
 - Charity – outreach needs of the community on an as-needed basis – e.g. hospitals, nursing homes, etc.
 - Liturgy/training – Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, CSC, bringing communion to the sick.
 - Word – preach the gospel and homily 1x/month, and help cover holidays and vacations. Assist 1x/week at Mass – can also help with weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. Coordinate RCIA, where we may now have one husband & wife who are interested, as well as retreats, pre-Cana, baptism preparation, and any needs as they arise.

New Commissions

All

- First need is a Social Activities Commission due to Faviola's departure
 - Coffee hours, picnics, dinners, Hispanic gatherings (refer to Feb mtg for Faviola's complete list)
 - Important because these are opportunities to bring people into the parish and strengthen the community
 - Should consider possible fun events as were common in the past, e.g. bingo, dinner-dances, couple's club, neighborhood house parties
 - Need to craft a mission statement – John Glancy will make a first-pass attempt which will be reviewed at the next PPC mtg
 - Volunteer Coordinator can act as a consultant to the group on how to work through the details of running events, but should not be an official part of it
- Also need to concentrate on Liturgy Commission launch, so we will hold off on pursuing any additional new commissions for now.

All other business

- Interfaith activities in town
 - Stonehill College volunteers will be working with OLOS on energy use and reducing our carbon footprint. The group is considering approaching multiple Sharon churches to share a field of solar panels since the archdiocese does not allow panels on church buildings

(possible structural issues?). It is not clear if panels are allowed on other parish buildings, but this will also be investigated.

- Sunday coffee hour – As part of the Rice Bowl project, CRS has organized to have a woman from Rwanda come to speak during coffee hour, and after each Sunday Mass on 3/5-3/6. A second collection will also be taken to raise support.
- Also on this same weekend, there will be an audio tape of the Catholic Appeal speech by Cardinal Sean.

Closing prayer

Claire

Our Lady of Sorrows Liturgy Commission

(to be confirmed)

Mission

The Our Lady of Sorrows Parish **Liturgy Commission** helps plan and support a rich Liturgical experience for the parish community. Chaired by Deacon Frank, members will work with Deacon Frank and Father Vinnie and the other parish ministries to integrate scripture, music, papal and archdiocesan themes, current events and the liturgical calendar to deepen our personal and collective spiritual lives. It will act as a consultative body and will meet monthly.

Initial scope – integrating scripture, music, themes and current events

- Planning for the Liturgical Seasons
- Planning for Ordinary time

Eventual areas of responsibility

- Liturgical experience beyond Mass: daily morning prayer, stations of the Cross, Adoration, evening prayers, etc.
- Liturgical literacy training for the parish
- Training for Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers
- Sacraments
- Children's liturgy
- Dance liturgy
- Worship environment