

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION
WORSHIP COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016

Meeting called to order by chairperson Dennis Castiglione at 7:02 pm.

In attendance: Fr. Dragga, Sarah Paczuk-Chappell, Aimee Convery, Conrad Gromada, Mary Ann Horvath, Barbara D’Ambrosia, Julie Parrotta, Maryhelen Bednarchik, Dennis Galambos, Juanita Vargo, Dennis Castiglione

Absent: Bill Lavezzi, Russell Chappell

I. Opening Prayer

Lord, guide our hearts and our minds as we meet here this evening. Bless this meeting with your divine intelligence, and help us to make the best use of our own. Impart your supreme wisdom upon our activities so that our affairs may reach a successful conclusion. Thank you for being our source of guidance today.

Amen!

II. Welcome – New Commission Members

Chairperson Dennis Castiglione welcomed our newest Commission members, Maryhelen Bednarchik, Dennis Galambos and Juanita Vargo.

III. Observations & Recommendations – Baptisms

The commission members were complimentary of the baptism celebration during the Sunday liturgy. Specific reference was made regarding the early procession of the family and the child to be baptized. A discussion was had regarding the litany of saints and a desire for consistency. Julie pointed out that when she is leading the music liturgy at Sunday masses featuring a baptism, she favors a sung rather than chanted litany. It will be the standard practice to do so. Dennis Galambos suggested that we might consider including the parish names in the surrounding community as we have connections with them (St. Rita, Saints Cosmos & Damian, St. Jude, etc.)

IV. Observations & Recommendations – First Communions

The commission members like the current celebration of first communicants and believe it is well received by the congregation. No changes recommended.

IV. Preparation for Evening of Reflections

Fr. Tom announced that 6 additional parishes have been invited to participate in the September 20 Evening of Reflection. Those representing ministries at Saints Cosmas and Damian and St. Rita’s will also be invited.

It was recommended that specific invitations be sent by the leaders of each ministry at Church of the Resurrection. The invitations should have details about the event and a call to action to confirm participation: Eucharistic ministers, Ushers, Lectors, Music ministry, Children's Liturgy ministry, Hospitality ministry, Art & Environment ministry. The invitation should feature a link to Fr. Paul Turner's website: <http://paulturner.org/> and his YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV9O6ZuytMgHUCOy0RGJqyw>

We are anticipating a crowd of 300-500 at the event.

V. Preparation for Advent Liturgy

Julie Parrotta mentioned that we will have a series of 4-5 taizé prayer days throughout the year. One or two might be held during Advent on Wednesday evenings. There are also plans in place for Music in a Sacred Space during Advent.

The commission members encouraged the practice of processing with the Advent candles to the Advent wreath in the Devotional Alcove. It was suggested that we might process with only the candle of each particular week of Advent, rather than an inclusive procession, each week.

Julie shared some of her ideas for music for Christmas time which will include "Some Children See Him".

VI. Creating a Socially-Conscious Christmas Environment

Fr. Tom explained the rationale behind the suggested Advent/Christmas theme for this year. He shared that the concept is to recognize those who were slain by gun violence in the past year by creating paper cranes, writing the names of those killed on them, and placing them as ornaments on the Christmas trees in the gathering place. This will begin on December 6 with an evening prayer service and continue during Advent..

It was suggested that the explanation be printed on the back of the worship aids so everyone will not only hear about the tribute, but see it explained, weekly, on the worship aid. Another suggestion was to place a basket in the gathering area with blank colored paper and pens so that anyone attending can create a tribute crane, at any time, during Advent and the Christmas season.

It was also suggested that we consider celebrating Saint Nicholas Day. His love of children is a perfect tie in. Father Tom thought we might even have the kids at children's liturgy place their shoes outside the room – and someone can place candy in them while they are in service.

VII. Roles of Ushers/Greeters/Cross Bearers

There is a significant reduction in the number of ushers serving the parish. Likewise, the greeters are not used as creatively as they could be to support the liturgy. Same is true for the hospitality ministry. We are also using a small crew of cross bearers. There is thought given to combining some of these roles to give more meaning to this ministry of supporting those in the congregation before, during and after mass. An active discussion was had by the commission members with several good suggestions made including:

- Appointing a team leader at each mass to coordinate the activities of this combined ministry.

- Recruit youngsters coming into mass to stand in the gathering area to distribute bulletins after mass.
- One of the team would be responsible each week for carrying the cross – or coordinating the procession of gifts, etc.
- Ushers should actually help parishioners find seats (something they don't do now.)
- During special services, ushers should guide the congregation when different lines, etc are assembled for adoration or ashes, etc.

It was suggested that a meeting of identified leaders among the ushers and greeters might meet to discuss how to define the role of this combined ministry and provide the worship commission with recommendations. Fr. Tom will be reaching out to these leaders to encourage them to meet.

VIII. Canadian vs. U.S. Lectionary

We are currently using the Canadian lectionary and a US sacramentary. The initial reason for moving to the Canadian translation was for its more inclusive language. However the US version is far less off that path than in the past. And, since we are in the U.S. and the leadership of the church in the US has 'encouraged' all parishes to use this translation, we should probably follow suit.

The commission agreed without challenge but suggested that any language that was decidedly not inclusive might be altered as deemed necessary, but with great care.

IX. Progress Report – Worship Commission Goals

The goals of the commission have been focused on increasing the involvement of youth in the liturgy. We have added one youth lector (with another being trained at the moment) and 5 youth cantors. We will continue to try to involve children in greeting the congregation as they leave the worship space – and pass out bulletins.

VI. 2016 Liturgical Year Worship Commission Goals

The commission reviewed progress against the goals established at the last meeting. A youth lector was added this past week (Isabelle, an 8th grader). Two more youth lectors are being developed as is a new adult lector. There are now 3 youth cantors and a fourth has been recommended. A youth cross bearer has also been added. It was agreed that we would invite children at each mass to pass out bulletins after the weekend services.

Fr. Tom recommended we look at combining the roles of usher/greeter and floating greeter into one. More discussion is expected on this subject.

VII. Schedule next meeting

The next meeting of the Worship Commission is tentatively set for Monday, January 23, 2017 at 7:00 pm. If any members of the commission have a schedule conflict, please let Dennis know.

VIII. Closing Prayer

As we close this meeting, Lord, we give honor to You. Thank you, for the time we had today to discuss issues and make decisions.

May You bless each person who took the time to gather here today and let Your hand of protection be on us throughout the rest of the week.

Let the work done here tonight come to fruition, and let it all be for Your glory. Help us each to do our parts to bring the plans discussed to life.

Amen

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.