Liturgy Commission Meeting - May 7, 2019

Attendance:
- Matthew Anderson
- Strad Engler
- Mary Lou von Euw
- Mary Elizabeth Hooker
- Ellen Modica
- Carol Russo
- Mary Santapaula

Ash Wednesday
- For the future, upstairs weekday masses require a Sunday coordinator in order to run smoothly
  - A weekday coordinator’s skills do not necessarily translate upstairs
- Lemons were not effective in cleaning ashes off of hands
  - Soap/detergent and water would be more effective

Art and Architecture Service
- Very well received
- If presented again, note that the stained glass windows are invisible at night

Liturgical Day of Reflection
- Well done; commission hopes to collaborate again with Fr. Joe Weiss
  - Incorporating movement into the service helped sustain focus and engagement
  - BC RCIA attendees were especially appreciative
  - Having the second portion in the Friary Room was good vs. in the Chapel
- How to boost attendance
  - Evening? Shorter program? Without lunch, 9-11:30am?

Palm Sunday
- Church was double booked on the Saturday before Palm Sunday with groups rehearsing for Palm Sunday and Good Friday
  - In years past, the parish would schedule all the reader groups on Saturday afternoon; make sure to block out the church calendar
- Re: liturgical dancers: how can we as a commission assist Jamie in keeping this resource alive and well?

Holy Thursday
- Washing of Feet was well executed
  - Placement in the center of the predella helped visibility for congregation
  - The rite went quickly as compared to previous years
  - If people who are representing specific ministries are having their feet washed, include them and their significance in the printed program
  - Need larger basins for feet washing; current ones too narrow and tall
- Had difficult in getting Eucharistic ministers to go and remain in the assigned locations
  - Can we improve: map/diagram? Marking spots on the floor with tape? Having the coordinator do a pass through and readjust?
  - When we have 4 bread ministers, put the priests on the outside aisles to help spread balance the communion lines (people will naturally migrate toward a priest distributing communion)
- Closing the Lannon Chapel at 10:30pm was fine

Good Friday
- Intercessions in dialogue was well received; the format better highlighted the meaning of the prayers
- Carol and Fr. Joe to discuss other adaptations in how we venerate the cross
- The congregation had trouble maintaining silence at the end of the liturgy; potential solutions:
  - Include a more detailed explanatory note in the program about leaving quietly?
  - Dimming lights?
  - Quiet, meditative music as people depart?
Holy Saturday

- Blessing of Food
  - Its timing and location complicated the decorating of the Chapel; are there alternative locations?
- Changes in the use of incense were well received
  - Zachariah performed well; his standing in front of the Ambo during the Gospel was well received
  - No complaints from the choir
- During the RCIA rites in the back of church, station a minister by the seats reserved for the RCIA candidates; in a full church, people will otherwise fill those empty seats
- Baking the Holy Week bread on Palm Sunday is too far in advance for its use at the Easter Vigil
  - For the future, bake 8 loaves (or as many as needed) for the Vigil on Holy Saturday, itself

Easter Sunday

- Is a full A/V feed of Lannon Chapel to Choir/Media Room possible?
- By locking the Upper Church to prevent overcrowding, we then overcrowd the overflow mass. What are our options for finding additional space/accommodating such large crowds?

Assorted notes/future topics:

- For the future, a month before large liturgies, we need to take an inventory of our supplies/order what is missing
  - Ran out of cups for the after-mass reception
  - Had to scramble for processional candles for Holy Thursday and Good Friday and candles for the RCIA candidates
  - New incense boats would be appreciated
- Making sure the Holy Week sacristan is aware of any additional needs, setup, timing, unlocking doors, etc.
  - For large liturgies, it’s best to have the windows open in church; church was especially warm on Good Friday and Holy Saturday
  - After Holy Thursday mass, have sacristan wait to break down microphones until the church is empty
  - Church was still locked at 6:45pm on Holy Saturday
  - Friary Room was not set up for the Sunday morning overflow masses: reception tables had not been broken down; additional seating not prepared
  - Triduum liturgies - especially the Easter Vigil - require a second sacristan; there’s more work than one person can complete
- For the future, be sure that all parts are assigned and communicated to the various ministers (including the minister of the Easter fire for Holy Saturday)
- A pre-rehearsal meeting and walk through to nail down blocking would help streamline the actual tech rehearsal
  - Make a point to rehearse the lighting cues at the tech rehearsal
    - Would be helpful to redo/edit the lighting cue booklet that’s hanging in the sacristy
    - Be aware that the up-lights flicker when being dimmed
  - For large liturgies, take photos of where vessels should be placed on altar
- Season of Creation - September 1st to October 4th
  - Discuss how to best collaborate with the Liturgy Commission
- Scheduling software
  - System is running more smoothly
  - Schedules are published on a monthly basis
  - April was a challenge with additionally scheduled liturgies
  - Knowing, in advance, which holy days are upstairs/downstairs would assist minister scheduling
- Protecting God’s Children
  - For the fall, can we bundle PGC and ministerial training into one day?
    - The current process (recruitment - training - PGC - ministering) is too drawn out
    - Suggestion: “We’ll offer PGC once we have x number of people signed up to be a new ministers.”
    - Limited by issues of space and the need of a DVD player
- Minister recruitment
  - The 4pm, 8am, 12pm masses are most in need of ministers
  - Family Mass is looking for more coordinators
    - New coordinators are difficult to find with the current Family Mass demographics: many families with very young children/many expectant mothers
  - Have to make clear to the congregation: “If the parish wants these liturgies to continue, parishioners need to step up”