Liturgy Commission Meeting - December 4th, 2018

Attendance
- Berta Alvarado
- Matthew Anderson
- Joe Costantino
- Strad Engler
- Rita Rodriguez
- Carol Russo
- Mary Lou von Euw

Day for Liturgical Ministers
- The program was well-received by the commission
  - The opening meditation was prayerful
    - Text taken from “Liturgical Words, Gestures, and Objects”
  - Some difficulty in hearing when we were gathered around the baptismal font
    - For a Lannon Chapel program, it’s best when the presenter has a microphone
    - Friary Room acoustics are poor
- What comes out of this?
  - Book of the Gospels
    - To be displayed in the entrance of the church before mass
    - After the procession, to be placed flat on the altar
    - After the Gospel reading, the book is to placed in the ambo
    - To be implemented on the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, January 20th
- Follow up program: Saturday, March 16th
  - All three spaces are reserved
  - Perhaps to compose a wrap up letter for bulletin to generate interest
    - Take pictures at the upcoming event for future publicity
  - For parishioners, in the bulletin, offer an explanation/meditation on individual liturgical objects
    - To help renew our focus on what we see and experience at mass

Witness Talks
- Stefano, STM student, is convening a group of 6-8 who are interested in becoming a “preaching group”
  - They’re in discussion of what that looks like, composing a proposal
  - Stefano is graduating after the end of the academic year; given the people involved, the group will likely survive his departure
- There’s a difference between a Witness Talk and a Homily
  - Requires that people understand that distinction
  - Perhaps to offer a future invitation to a liturgy commission meeting

Liturgies in Review/Looking Ahead
- Thanksgiving
  - 70 or so people, many non-parishioners in attendance
  - Minister scheduling worked fine
- Advent
  - Second year for a non-traditional wreath
  - Bulletin article to run on third Sunday of Advent: reflection by Maria Termini regarding her trip to the border
• Immaculate Conception
  ○ Constant Contact to go out to the Parish this week reminding them of the 10am, Upper Church time/place
  ○ Are ministers being scheduled on the software yet?
    ■ Our only requirements are 2 Eucharistic Ministers and maybe 2 lectors
    ■ Will send out a request for Christmas ministers
    ■ No baked bread
• Our Lady of Guadalupe/Second Sunday of Advent
  ○ Frs. Cesar/Rodrigo
  ○ 2 lectors, 4-5 ministers signed up
    ■ How to we coordinate with the Spanish speaking community who wish to serve?
    ■ Rita to secure gift bearers
  ○ Matthew B. is sacristan that afternoon: Joe will ask him to arrive early and help fill the coordinator role
• Christmas
  ○ 4pm
    ■ Upstairs
      ● Full complement of ministers as at the 10am
      ● Upper church will be locked at 3:50pm, people will be directed downstairs
    ■ Spillover mass downstairs
      ● Separate priest, separate ministers to schedule
      ● Minister scheduling requirements: one lector, two Eucharistic ministers, coordinator; skeleton crew
  ○ 6pm, 12am
    ■ Full complement of ministers
  ○ Christmas Day masses
    ■ Schedule ministers as on Sundays
• Mary, Mother of God
  ○ Similar in scope to Immaculate Conception
  ○ Perhaps even less attended
• Epiphany - January 6th - Bilingual Mass

Assorted Notes
• Listening Sessions/feedback
  ○ To create conversation, challenge for one another
  ○ Attendance is encouraging: there is discomfort yet they are still engaged
  ○ How well prepared are the facilitators for potentially difficult conversations?
  ○ Some ideas have to be challenged; made realistic given the size of the parish and our available resources: staff and clergy
    ■ "Parishioner-driven is insulting"
    ● Some may feel abandoned by the clergy
    ● "The priests should keep office hours"
• Bilingual Liturgies
  ○ Idea presented: have the upstairs 10am be bilingual, eliminate the 12pm Spanish mass
    ■ Would help solve coordinator scheduling issues at the 12pm mass, there are only two coordinators
● Bread
  ○ Gary Toth will be leaving stepping down from his current role
    ■ To be succeeded by Amy Larson
    ■ Strad will be monitoring the written reports
  ○ If scheduling remains difficult, looking to have people bake for multiple masses a weekend
    ■ Spanish community is stretched thinly; difficult to be able to schedule bread bakers
  ○ Low-key recruiting effort hurt bread baking volunteering numbers
    ■ Took place during the news breaking regarding abuse crisis, Fr. Bob
    ■ Recruitment effort is best when tactile: hands on demonstrations
● Minister scheduling software
  ○ Would like to have a report generated for the number of masses where we lacked a minister
  ○ Michael to schedule ministers for 12/8, 1/1
● Hospitality ministry
  ○ Presented last Advent that our existing volunteers arrive early; welcome arrivals
  ○ Has been attempted repeatedly in the past without success
● Storm notifications
  ○ Scheduler for the day can email the ministers for that mass
    ■ Does a staff member then have to contact that scheduler?
  ○ General advice: encourage people to use common sense about traveling in inclement weather; if BC is closed, it's a good indicator that we'll be closed
    ■ Will make sure Michael knows of the procedure to notify
● Flu season
  ○ No specific changes regarding cup, sign of peace

For Next Meeting
  ○ Put together a game plan, post-Christmas recruitment
    ■ Could we do a recruitment effort later in Lent
      ● Ash Wednesday, March 6th
      ● Could be planned in conjunction with PGC, CORI intake
      ● Ideally, two recruitment events yearly, maybe quarterly
  ○ Our priorities: Recruitment, Coordinators...
    ■ Revisit the coordinator model next Fall
      ● Very thin pool of ministers
      ● There is some frustration over continued inconsistencies in practices between the masses
        ○ Same people being asked to fill the coordinator-assigned roles
    ■ For the Liturgy Commission to review the coordinators duties/best practices and realize their implementation
      ● Present positively: we're looking for ways to include new ministers
      ● If the changes aren't happening, then the sacristans can take over some of those duties