

St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church

Worship Commission

Minutes of Meeting January 15, 2013

Members present: Pam Bange, Michelle Mort, Hans Schade, Rose Wiedenmann, Diane Ruder, Alan Wilson Roseanne Cannon, Debby Kellner,

Members Absent: Doug Teaford,

Ex Officio Present: Jeremy Helmes

Ex Officio Absent: Fr. Geoff Drew, Fr. Matt Lee, Teresa Besl

- I. Debby Kellner opened the meeting with prayer at 7:01 PM.
- II. Formation Fifteen
Documents relating to Chapel reconfiguration were discussed. Two items recommended for implementation were that the tabernacle should be physically secured until reconfiguration occurs, and signage and lamps indicating “Blessed sacrament Chapel” should be more prominent and clear. Jeremy Helmes will follow up through staff. Further, Jeremy, Larry Witsken and parishioner Dave Stitt will prepare a cost estimate through PEDCO E&A Services.
- III. A motion was made by Pam Bange and seconded by Rose Wiedenmann to approve the minutes. All approved.
- IV. Pastoral Associate Report:
 - A. Attendance at Christmas masses was up over last year – this may be linked to the “Catholics Come Home” program. Masses were full in general.
 - B. On March 12, 2013, St. Max will host one of four diocesan events on ministering to the sick. Communion ministers and chaplains are strongly encouraged to attend. Hans will obtain further details from Carol Heuser and disseminate the information.
 - C. Liturgical Catechesis – WC expressed their support of preaching on the liturgy during the summer, especially in light of the Year of Faith and the Parish Anniversary. Jeremy will check with neighboring parishes on preaching on the liturgy.
 - D. In keeping with the directives of the USCCB and Rome, the *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) will no longer have “alternate text verses”, starting with ordinary time.

Instead, we will foster the multicultural aspects of St. Max, and additional verses will have Lamb of God translated into various languages represented in our parish, including Vietnamese, Spanish, German, and French, among others.

IV. Continuing Business

- A. Hans related items from the January PC meeting. Of note were that we will “test drive” extended times for reconciliation on Saturday mornings in Lent. Fr. Geoff made special mention of the Stephen ministry efforts at St. Max both during his report to PC as well as in the written report circulated to the commissions. There was discussion both at PC and subsequently at the WC meeting about moving the midnight mass time up by an hour to 11 PM. A number of positive gains were discussed. Consensus by the group was that this was worth trying, and will be reported to Fr. Geoff by the WC chair.
- B. Status of joint commission/council renewal. The group has put together a packet for combined meetings with planned dates for the next five years. Mark Bange (PC) has provided the information to Angie Elsass for scheduling. PC will lead the pulpit pitches. There will be two joint information meetings, with subsequent individual breakout sessions by PC, FC, WC, *etc.* Dates are yet to be finalized, but will be communicated soon.
- C. Alan Wilson reported that the ad hoc committee on dress code would be meeting on January 17 for an information gathering session. Jeremy reminded this group that the outcome from this group should be measurable and achievable, and not a subjective rating.
- D. Sheri Barksdale, a parishioner, has come forward to offer her services for signing at masses. She teaches ASL and also has access to students who are looking for practicum situations. Jeremy reported that dialogue with Sherri is continuing, with the objective of defining a schedule and goals.

VI. New Business

- A. A cantor workshop is being held on Saturday, January 26, at St. John’s in WestChester.
- B. Advent/Christmas comments:
 - i. Lessons and carols – more songs for the children? Lessons and carols at midnight mass contained nice mix of caroling and choir songs
 - ii. Mass booklets (instead of the usual tri-folds) were commented upon favorably by several parishioners: well laid out, helpful in participation
 - iii. Adding instruments was highlighted as adding greatly to the liturgical experience, and a greater fullness of the music
 - iv. The “attention to silence”, with longer pauses after the readings and psalm, was also highlighted as a positive experience, providing what one person termed a “real sense of worship”. WC recommends that this should continue in non-ordinary liturgical seasons.

- v. Positive comments also on “alternate texts” for well-known hymns; it was opined that this allows better reflection on the individual feast days being celebrated
- vi. Preaching emphasis on reconciliation at the beginning of Advent was also well-received. WC recommends this theme be repeated whenever we enter a season where reconciliation services are more of a focus (Lent/Advent)
- vii. Many parishioners have commented to WC members that the blessing of the infant Jesus statues for the mangers was meaningful, and nicely tied in with Right to Life Sunday.
- viii. Lighting of the Advent wreath on the first Sunday was nice, but there was a disconnect as it was not repeated on subsequent Sundays. The Pastoral team should consider whether lighting the Advent wreath every Sunday, perhaps from the Easter candle (connects resurrection with incarnation?)

C. There were no questions relating to the Pastor’s report.

D. Items introduced by members:

- i. Communion ministers have expressed concerns about repeated need to break hosts. Jeremy reported that sacristan host counts have been adjusted, and that sacristans have been reminded to evaluate mass attendance versus pre-set host count ahead of each service.
- ii. The March WC meeting date falls during Holy Week. Jeremy will issue a Meeting Wizard invite for alternate dates.
- iii. A motion to move the January meeting permanently to mid-month was introduced by Hans, citing the fact that this bridges the gap with not having a December meeting, and gives a 6-week period between meetings in Nov and Feb. Motion was seconded by Debby, and approved unanimously.
- iv. A question was raised on the status of pew boxes. Jeremy reported that there were no pew cards for Advent and Christmas, and the idea had been tabled.
- v. WC inquired about the number of Worship Aids (WA) printed for each weekend. The answer is 1000.
- vi. Jeremy reminded members that budget time is coming up. If WC were to request something different/specific for the next year, this will need to be incorporated. Members were asked to reflect on this, and it will be an agenda item for the Feb WC meeting. Our fiscal year runs July 1-June 30.
- vii. A question was asked as to who sees our minutes. The answer is that anyone with access to the WC “members only” section can. Jeremy and Hans agreed to work with Angie Elsass to ensure that the pastoral team as well as the heads of FC and PC have access to this page. The pastoral team consists of the pastor, the parochial vicar, the three deacons, and the six pastoral associates.

VII. Deferred Issues

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| A. Total Stewardship presentations | <i>PC activities recap to be presented
by Hans at February WC meeting</i> |
| B. Chapel modification cost estimates | <i>Feb WC meeting update</i> |

VIII. Closing prayer was led by Debby. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 9:06 PM by Roseanne Canon, seconded by Debby Kellner.

*The next meeting is slated for 2/25/13, 7PM.
Respectfully submitted by J. Schade, 1/29/2013*