

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish  
Worship & Sacraments Commission  
Minutes of Meeting January 24, 2017

**Members Present:** Paul Von Erden, Beth Brink, Mike Gardner, Christine Guerin, Adriana Inman, Corey Moore, Dawn Mansour, Susan Maddox, Darlene Lewis

**Members Absent:** Lois Latzy (Chair), Michelle Meyer

**Ex Officio Present:** Fr. Geoff Drew (Pastor), Jeremy Helmes (Pastoral Associate) and John Stengel (Recording Sec.)

- I. Opening Prayer/Praying for Each Other – Corey opened at 7:01PM
- II. Discussion of Chapter 4 of Lazarus at the Table
  - A. Rights & Responsibilities
  - B. Along with rights we also have responsibilities. The two go together.
  - C. Many people know they have rights but do not take on the responsibilities.
  - D. Fr. Geoff has been noticing more and more how many people have been deprived of the basic necessities.
  - E. 20% of the students in Lakota Schools are living below the poverty level. What we think is poor in our local area is not poor.
  - F. It is frustrating to think about how do we fix the problem?
  - G. We have given so many people rights, but in many cases we have not required people to take responsibilities.
  - H. It is good to help people, but people also need to help themselves if they are able. We should look at helping on a case by case basis.
  - I. Meet people responsibly. Jesus can be in disguise, but evil can also be in disguise. We can address people's needs without endangering ourselves.
  - J. Fr. Geoff talked about not giving someone money for gas, but have the person meet you at the gas station. Buy the person on the street asking for money something to eat, not just give them cash. Fr. Geoff keeps gift cards in his car to hand out instead of cash.
  - K. People have the right to a basic existence.
  - L. Susie quoted from the chapter. "Our effort to become whom we are called to be is not complete if we allow God's image to be degraded in fellow human beings."
  - M. We can plant seeds, but people must take responsibility. We need to teach people to fish.
  - N. We have poor individuals in our parish who do not come to St. Max because they feel out of place.
  - O. Catholic teaching begins with human dignity. We should treat people as a brother or sister. Dignity is important when working with the poor.
  - P. Must find a balance from the top down to address basic rights and needs for everyone.
- III. Visit from Fr. Geoff
  - A. Liturgical hospitality encouragement
    - i. Fr. Geoff says thank you to everyone for all the work being done by the WC, Jeremy, and Mary Ella on worship. Worship is the most important thing we do as a Catholic community and he is very grateful for everything being done by everyone. He always receives nice compliments on the way things are done here at St. Max.
    - ii. Fr. Geoff thinks a priority of the WC should be to think about how to improve hospitality.
      1. Hospitality is a very important part of worship. The hospitality of greeting people when they come into church, ushers helping to seat people, and after Mass the personal one on one of handing out bulletins.
    - iii. Fr. Geoff is encouraging the WC to look at how to do the ministry of hospitality better because it is very important.
  - B. Chapel reconfiguration update – review of timeline
    - i. Fr. Geoff asking members to proof read the letter he is sending out concerning the chapel reconfiguration.
    - ii. Fr. Geoff wants to be proactive about the reconfiguration in a pastoral and positive way.
    - iii. Fr. Geoff has always been concerned that the tabernacle is not fixed and immovable and he has not addressed the issue because it is ugly where it is now located in the corner of the chapel. It is not beautiful, dignified and reverent.
    - iv. Fr. Geoff is very thankful for the work not only the current WC has done, but also the WC in 2012. He feels the timing is right now to proceed with the reconfiguration.

- v. It is not about moving the tabernacle, but it is about having a beautiful, reverent, dignified space where the tabernacle is central, focused and prominent. When speaking with parishioners about the reconfiguration we should ask if they think the current configuration is the best we can do to provide a beautiful, reverent, dignified space for the Blessed Sacrament.
- vi. The original plan when the church was built was for a reservation chapel and a daily Mass chapel, but since the daily Mass chapel was not built, the reservation chapel was used for daily Mass with the altar at the center. The reservation chapel is no longer used for daily Mass, so there is no need for the altar in the center of the chapel.
- vii. Fr. Geoff wants to be sure his letter represents the ideas of the current WC, the WC from 2012, and his ideas about the reconfiguration.
- viii. The letter is being sent to all the council and commission members.
- ix. WC will be running town hall meetings in the fall.
  - 1. Town hall meetings will be to explain how the decision was reached for the reconfiguration and to receive feedback on the reconfiguration.
- x. Timeline
  - 1. The goal is to start mid-March with the painting, polishing the tabernacle, and the trial reconfiguration.
  - 2. Will be putting out information as many ways as possible. Through the bulletin, Facebook, etc.
  - 3. Town hall meetings will probably be six months after the start of the trial reconfiguration.
  - 4. Jeremy asked if there were any concerns about the timeline?
    - a. There were no concerns about the timeline for chapel reconfiguration.

#### IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from November 15, 2016.

- A. Minutes approved with no changes.

#### V. Pastoral Associate Report

- A. Jeremy looking for someone to coordinate the greeters ministry as part of the effort to enhance liturgical hospitality.
- B. Art & Environment Ministry needs
  - i. Several opportunities both short term and long term.
  - ii. A team is needed to maintain plants and all aspects of the church décor on an ongoing basis.
  - iii. Jeremy and Chris are going to meet to discuss the needs of this ministry.
- C. Jeremy is proposing moving the start time for Stations of the Cross to 12:00–12:30PM from 9:30AM on Good Friday because it has not been well attended at 9:30AM. This would require the principle midday Good Friday liturgy to start at 1:00 to 1:30PM instead of 12:30PM. There were no objections from any WC member present, so Jeremy will proceed with his proposal.

#### VI. Continuing Business/Projects

- A. Items related to WC from January PC Meeting – Michelle attended the meeting, but she is not present to report on the meeting.
  - i. Jeremy not aware of anything of significance related to the WC.
  - ii. PC did give approval to changing the name of the WC quadrant to Worship and Sacraments.
- B. Ministry Leaders Luncheon Planning: January 29<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm
  - i. 13 people planning on attending so far.
  - ii. Mike and Jeremy dealing with all the setup and picking up the food.
  - iii. Did not ask the ministry leaders to submit a formal report. The plan is to just have a conversation with the leaders and the WC will be a sounding board.

#### VII. New Business

- A. Formal liturgical evaluation of Advent/Christmas
  - i. Our primary goal is to evaluate what things helped us to pray and celebrate, and what things distracted us from prayer.
  - ii. Dawn expressed concerned that there was no announcement about non-Catholics not receiving communion. There was a note in the Worship Aid about people who are not Catholic remaining in their place singing and joining us in prayer.
  - iii. The music with the added instrumentation was excellent.
  - iv. Emphasis on the different colors. The blue hues and blue lights.
  - v. The alternating of men and women singing helps us to focus in and become a part of the liturgy.
  - vi. There was nothing radically new this year.

- vii. Miraculous medals being handed out to everyone was fantastic.
  - 1. E&C members were frustrated that so many medals were left in the pews or not taken. This was not unexpected by the staff, but disappointing to the E&C members.
- viii. Children's choir at noon Mass was beautiful.
- ix. 3:00PM was less noisy this year. The 3:00PM Mass was less busy and much better this year. The focus before Christmas asking people to car pool and fill the gym first paid off. 3:00PM Mass in the gym was full before the church.
- x. The welcoming of people of other faith traditions by the priests and deacons was very nice.
- xi. Preaching
  - 1. Preaching has been phenomenal lately.
  - 2. Preachers crave feedback so that they know what is working, not "great homily today", which does not help them prepare future homilies.
  - 3. The more feedback the better for the preachers.
- xii. Did Advent & Christmas hang together as a unified celebration? They are separate seasons, but did they work together?
  - 1. It felt like there was an intentional effort to make the seasons special.
  - 2. The singing of the "Magnificat" after communion and then instrumental music during the recessional during Advent helps to make Advent seem unfinished. This then helps make Christmas feel like the finale.

#### B. Sneak Peek at Lent 2017

- i. No radical changes planned this year for Lent.
- ii. Dawn talked about having Alleluia out for a week or two and then boxing it up for Lent and then just put out the box.
  - 1. This is an ethnic tradition of burying the Alleluia.
  - 2. Christine is going to look at how this might work.
- iii. Any concerns about the plans for Lent.
  - 1. Lent feels Lenten at St. Max.
  - 2. Tweaking Lent with no big changes planned.
  - 3. We make it very clear when we celebrate seasons vs ordinary time.

#### C. Initial thinking about liturgy schedule for Dec 23/24/25/2017

- i. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of advent is on Dec 24<sup>th</sup>.
- ii. What will be the liturgy schedule?
  - 1. In the past we have dropped the noon Mass on Sunday the 24th.
  - 2. Jeremy thinks we should drop the noon Mass to allow more time to transition the church.
  - 3. We probably will keep the 3:00PM & 5:30PM Masses.
  - 4. We do not need to make the decision now, but everyone should think about this and let Jeremy know if they have a better idea.
  - 5. Art and Environment team will need a plan to quickly transition from Advent to Christmas.

### VIII. Closing Reflection

#### A. What have we done tonight to draw people closer to the Lord?

- i. Fr. Geoff being open to the reconfiguration of the chapel.
- ii. The focus on being a parish of hospitality.
- iii. Grateful for having the opportunity to serve on this commission and the support we get.
- iv. Mike is grateful for when he does his ministry at the hospital and people from other parishes have good things to say about St Max.
- v. When the liturgy is celebrated well it helps people grow closer to God and the WC helps to set the tone.
- vi. There are so many people behind the scenes to make good things happen at St. Max.
- vii. Grateful for praying for each other.

#### B. Jeremy closed the meeting with prayer.

### IX. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Stengel, *Ex Officio* (Secretary)