

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish
Worship & Sacraments Commission
Minutes of Meeting November 28, 2017

Members Present: Mike Gardner (Chair), Adriana Inman, Dawn Mansour, Hope Davenport, Helena Osuber, Amy Wissel

Members Absent: Michelle Meyer, Christine Guerin, Michael Bolek, Terry Schneeman, Susan Maddox, Beth Brink

Ex Officio Present: Jeremy Helmes (Pastoral Associate) and John Stengel (Recording Sec.)

Ex Officio Absent: Fr. Geoff Drew (Pastor)

Staff Visitor: Rebecca Peltier – Children’s Initiation Minister

- I. Opening Prayer/Praying for Each Other – Mike opened at 7:06 PM
- II. Formation- Liturgy Document book – Built of Living Stones paragraphs 46-65
How well are the two principles enumerated in paragraph 52 (community of individuals and priest/assembly together) embodied by the arrangement of our church?
 - A. The fanned shaped nature of the pews.
 - B. When the church is full it seems that we are together as a community. It feels that we are all one.
 - C. The altar being elevated makes it the focus.
 - D. Even in the back of our church you still feel a part of everything.
 - E. In the back of the cathedral, which seats 850-900, you feel far away from the altar because of the long narrow design.
 - F. The flooring will need to be replaced in the church and thought must be given to how it will affect the sound system. Sound is very complicated and once new flooring is installed the sound system will have to be tweaked.
 - G. Church buildings exist to accommodate the people who come to pray. Interesting how the church document starts with the people of God when they come to pray and then design the building to accommodate the people. This is a change since Vatican II.
- III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from October 24, 2017.
 - A. Minutes approved with no changes.
- IV. Pastoral Associate Report
 - A. Jeremy will be attending the annual Colloquium of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians meeting in Las Vegas.
 - B. The plan is to have the new stained glass window above the baptistry installed by the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord in 2019. The window is a gift to honor Carol Heuser’s service to the parish.
 - C. Jeremy and Christine looking for someone to take leadership in Arts and Environment.
- V. Staff Visitor: Rebecca with an update on her ministerial work
 - A. Everyone in the department will be coming to talk to the WSC about their role and how they do their ministry.
 - B. Rebecca works with the first penance and first communion families. This year has been about solidifying our objectives to help those going through the sacraments.
 - i. Punctuating that the parents are the primary teachers of the children, and the parish is here to support them in sacramental preparation. Parents are the main focus of sacramental preparation and content is being designed to help them in a way that will help them in a lasting way understand the importance of these sacraments.
 - ii. Sacramental preparation happens in the parish not in RFY or in the classrooms at school. It is the job of the parish to do formal sacramental preparation. Trying to balance how often parents and children are asked to attend sessions at the parish.
 1. Some adjustments have been made to the schedule.
 - a. Added some sessions.
 - b. Lengthen the time of some sessions.
 - c. Trying to eliminate the fluff and fill their time with what will impact their formation in a deep and lasting way.

- iii. Preparation is being offered twice a year. This allows parents to make the choice so that they can make sacramental prep the top priority on their schedule.
 - 1. 43 families for fall first penance.
 - 2. 18 families for fall first communion and 12 will receive first communion in the fall and the others will wait for spring.
 - 3. Feedback has been positive. Helped parents with their schedule. Some were glad their children did not have to wait if they were ready to receive the sacraments.
- iv. Sacraments are celebrated in the parish and not in the schools.
- v. Faith formation of the adults is very important to help them pass along the faith to their children. Parents must understand that they need to do more than just drop the kids off at class.
- C. Sacramental prep starts with a parent's session.
 - i. A handbook is in the works to help the parents. It will be full of answers to questions and resources for the parents.
 - ii. The focus is to give the parents the resources they need to form their children.
 - iii. Starting with the parent's session to give the parents the opportunity to grow in their faith.
- D. Updating the database and trying to identify children who may not have received the sacraments.
 - i. Putting together intense four week sessions for older children(teenagers) who need preparation for penance, confirmation, etc.
- E. Must evangelize people to know Jesus and His teaching. Jesus must be the focus and we must have an intimate relationship with God.
- F. Staff is always looking for audio/visual material for catechesis.
- G. No more than 15 hours for preparation for these first sacraments.
- H. Some families are well prepared and some come in needing a lot of catechesis.
- I. Some parents have their children receive first communion, but they do not come to Mass.
- J. Rebecca trying to get the children to fall in love with Jesus and want to come to Mass. Hope that the children will help the parents to come back to the Church.
- K. Between confirmation and first communion there are 250 – 300 families, and Fr. Geoff meets with all of them.

VI. Continuing Business/Projects

- A. Chapel seating
 - i. Fr. Geoff will be speaking with the Archbishop on December 2.
 - ii. Facilities Committee wants a moratorium on changes until there is a master plan for the campus expansion. This opens up a lot of questions about what can and cannot be done in the chapel.
 - 1. Pastoral and Finance council will have to make a recommendation to Fr. Geoff.
 - 2. It would be better to have the plan in place sooner, but money is needed for the plan.
 - 3. Since Pastoral Council is meeting next Wednesday to discuss how to proceed with the master plan, we should wait to make any changes to the chapel until after this meeting.
 - iii. Seating option 4 on the seating chart is close to what we have now, but it will be less like separate sections and only have one aisle going down the center. It will mirror the church a little more. It would be a tweaking of the seating we have in the chapel now.
 - iv. There has been some positive feedback concerning the unobstructed view of the tabernacle when you walk into the chapel with the current seating configuration and the diagonal aisles.
 - v. It was agreed to try option 4 which is the option with more unity and access to kneelers. Mike will write up a recommendation and Jeremy will take it to Fr. Geoff.
- B. Pastoral Council Meeting – Adriana
 - i. Looking at a parking lot ministry to look at traffic flow.
 - ii. Leadership Discernment – still need 2 people from WSC by Dec 1st.
 - 1. Amy volunteered and Mike will ask another member of the WSC.
 - iii. Common Bylaws – need someone to look at the new common bylaws to be sure the WSC bylaws are included in the new common bylaws.
 - 1. Hope volunteered.
 - iv. Fr. Geoff has asked that we have Fr. Simon Peter come in to speak to the WSC.
 - v. Request to have the dates of the feast days along with when incense will be used listed on the website.
 - vi. One Step Closer.
- C. Ministry Leadership Luncheon
 - i. January 21st – in the youth room after 12:00 pm Mass until 3:00 pm.
 - ii. Mike and Jeremy will discuss the agenda.
 - iii. Someone will need to pick up the food.

VII. New Business

- A. Seasonal sneak peek for Lent – Jeremy
 - i. Lent is going to look a lot like it has in the past.
- B. One Step Closer Program
 - i. An initiative for the “church people” to invite people to come to Mass on January 6/7, the Feast of the Epiphany. There will be an Epiphany themed donut trail in the gym. Everyone will have the opportunity to sign up for the 1% Challenge.
 - ii. There will be a lot of publicity for the event.
 - iii. On Dec 8 after Mass a “toolkit” will be handed out. Help is needed for handing out the toolkits.
 - iv. Lots of help will be needed the weekend of Jan 6/7.
 - v. This is aimed at people who are Catholic but do not come to Mass.
- C. New tabernacle
 - i. Is the tabernacle we have the right one? Do we need a new one?
 - ii. If we keep the current tabernacle what needs to be done to increase its presence in the chapel?
 - iii. Lots of questions that will need to be addressed with a liturgical consultant.
 - iv. Is it worthwhile to go back to the original consultant from last March, or find a local less expensive consultant?
 - v. Much of the work that needs to be done by the liturgical consultant on the current chapel, as well as the new chapel, cannot be done until we have architectural drawings and a master plan for the expansion.
- D. Liturgical Ministers’ Formation Event
 - i. A formation event for liturgical ministers. We have not had one for a long time.
 - ii. Jeremy posted the example from the last event on the website.
 - iii. Commission needs to decide if we are going to do the event.
 - 1. Discuss at the Ministry Luncheon on January 21st.
- E. Christmas gathering
 - i. Mike will resend the invite to decide on the date.

VIII. Closing Reflection

- A. What have we done tonight to draw people closer to the Lord?
 - i. Our conversation this evening has helped bring us closer to the Lord.
 - ii. Nice having Rebecca present. Nice to have younger people involved in the parish.
 - iii. Things we have discussed tonight helps us to become more spiritual and religious.
- B. Express prayers of thanks
 - i. Thankful for Jeremy and all that he does for the parish.
 - ii. Thankful for the excitement and passion of the people at St. Max.
 - iii. Jeremy thankful for all the staff at St. Max who are passionate about engaging people to bring them closer to Christ.
 - iv. That the Holy Spirit will open our eyes and hearts to understand the scriptures and draw us closer to the Lord.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Stengel, *Ex Officio* (Secretary)