

LITURGY TEAM REPORT

April 27, 2003

Attendees: Fr. John, Bill Crosthwait, Claudia Helta, Teresa Killar, Janice Dec-Bienkowski, Sally Huber and Holly Looney

Minutes:

- Evaluation of Lent
 - Liturgy team spent a lot of time and effort on the "theme", yet I felt our ability to reinforce it through music, homiletics and other sources was lacking.
 - Season seemed to go by quickly
 - Mass, for the most part, went well
 - Introductory Rites were okay; simplify Penitential Rite, perhaps
 - Less than 24 crosses were returned; Nails were more effective – Something small is better so that you can carry it in your pocket
 - Lot of things were going on in the parish
 - Look at Disciples in Mission program to try to pull next year's theme from it.
 - Didn't highlight Laetare Sunday
 - Thought there would be more "visuals" in the sanctuary
 - Tuesday 6 am mass was well attended
 - Repeat religious education stations – perhaps 2 times per grade level
- Evaluation of Palm Sunday
 - Processional path to be extended - too quick of an entrance
 - If banners to be used next year should encompass taller space
 - Loved the red material on the back of the church - it would be nice to duplicate for both Lent (purple) and Easter. Liked the use of this space.
 - The musical antiphon during the gospel worked very well
 - Thought palms would be bigger
 - Procession could have been more celebratory
 - Possibility of more people in the procession?
 - Liked red banner on cross, back of church and holy water font
 - How about palm trees in the sanctuary?
- Evaluation of Holy Thursday
 - Too many people, too much music - simplify down
 - Washing of the feet went quickly - need queue next year as it applies when it is complete
 - Lights usage to be clarified and brought up gradually
 - Bells for the Gloria - what happened? Add to script
 - Music ministry space too small to fit it musicians - to continue the tradition of everyone at this mass?
 - No Penitential Rite if the holy oils are received

- Liked the foot washing – chairs should be in place in the sanctuary...perhaps the people could move their own chair in place?
- Person should take pitcher and basin to wash the foot of the next person – the towel can already be at the chair
- Have a table in the Candle Room for the foot washing stuff
- Need an MC for this mass to keep it running smoothly?
- Liked the visual of the pitchers and basins
- Fr. John washed too many feet – too much time
- Cantors did not seem to be paying a lot of attention around the time of the General Intercessions
- Liked the procession for the transfer of the Holy Eucharist
- Evaluation of Good Friday Stations
 - Stations went well
 - Schedule a cross bearer for stations
 - Crowd was big enough
 - Need 2 Eucharistic Ministers
- Evaluation of Good Friday Service
 - Loved the intercessions - worked well
 - We should limit the use of a musical antiphon to one passion reading per season. Perhaps an acted out version next year?
 - Sparse attendance?
 - Subdued lighting throughout the service
- Holy Saturday Blessing of Food
 - Quick, but went nicely
- Easter Vigil
 - Ushers need more direction at the rehearsal
 - Announcement or sign posted that Mass begins outside
 - Easter fire – have a container with the fire on the patio
 - People should NOT stop to light candles from the ushers as they come into church
 - Get people inside before candles are lighted.
- Easter Sunday
 - Sunrise was wonderful
 - Church wasn't ready for 8 am mass from the Vigil
 - Need more vessels for reserving hosts
 - Set of binders for each mass weren't ready
 - Communication of those involved in the masses needs improvement
 - Additional chairs were brought in for noon mass through the homily.
 - Ushers need better communication
 - Need a checklist for each mass to be sure everything is in place (and someone to check the list)
 - Need to improve sound system for the hall
 - Need someone to take responsibility to set up hall for mass
 - Practice Easter music before Easter (children's choir?)

- Holly's observations about Lent and Triduum
 - We need one person to be in charge of each liturgy. It's too much for one person to do all of them and participate in the liturgy itself.
 - There was a lack of communication about rehearsals and participation of ministers in the services. This needs to be improved.
 - Opinion was that the Liturgy Team needs to meet about the 3rd - 4th week of Lent to review Holy Week.
 - It was helpful that Fr. John, Paul and Holly sat down to review the liturgies of Holy Week.
 - Rehearsal schedules needs to be published with the ministry schedule
 - We need to look in to ways to increase attendance at the Triduum liturgies.
- Holy Week Attendance
 - Palm Sunday
 - 5:30 pm – 307
 - 7:30 pm – 152
 - 8:00 am – 241
 - 10:00 am – 588
 - Noon – 210
 - Holy Thursday – 246
 - Good Friday Stations – 377
 - Good Friday Service – 170
 - Easter Vigil – 250
 - Easter Sunrise (6:15 am) – 115
 - Easter Sunday (8:00 am) – 606
 - Easter Sunday (10:00 am – church) – 645
 - Easter Sunday (10:00 am – hall) – 317
 - Easter Sunday (noon) – 536
- Liturgy Survey
 - Needs to be done as soon as possible
 - Include times of Saturday and Sunday masses and favorite hymns
- Children's Liturgy – May 17
 - They should sing a Marian Hymn for the May crowning
- First Eucharist Celebrations
 - Janice distributed a handout which outlined the celebrations. There will be a group celebration on May 10 at 10 am and individual celebrations will take place at mass between May 11 and June 8. A sheet outlining what this means for various masses is attached.
- Baptisms during Mass
 - We're going to do this occasionally.
 - Opportunities for families to have a baby baptized during mass will be at the 5:30 pm mass on the first weekend of the month and at the noon mass on the third weekend of the month.
 - These changes will occur: The questions will be asked of the parents and godparents at the beginning of mass. We will omit the Penitential Rite.

There will be a sprinkling with holy water after the renewal of Baptismal Promises. We will skip the Litany of the Saints.

- Fr. John requested that the music ministry to investigate the possibility of acquiring handbells.

A group will meet in May to review the data of the liturgy survey.

Our next Liturgy Team meeting is June 8 at 5:00 pm in the Ijamsville Conference Room.

First Eucharist Celebrations

This year approximately 80 children of our parish community will be receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist. Half of the children will celebrate the sacrament in a group celebration on Saturday, May 10th at 10am. The other half will celebrate the sacrament “individually” during the weekend masses throughout the Easter season.

The individual celebrations are something new this year, and therefore deserve some discussion and explanation. The following is a summary of what has been worked out so far:

1. Each family will receive a letter explaining the format of the individual celebrations.
2. One to two weeks before the scheduled mass, each family will be contacted by phone so that necessary information can be exchanged.
3. On the day of the celebration, the family is to arrive at the church at least 15 minutes before the start of mass and identify themselves to the presider. The presider will be given a list of names for each celebration in advance.

The following ministries will be involved with these celebrations.

1. MUSIC: A list of the families and masses is provided. Music for the masses to be discussed.
2. EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: The first communicant and his immediate family will proceed to the sanctuary after the sign of peace and receive communion there. The Eucharistic ministers need to be informed that this is happening so that they can position themselves accordingly.
3. USHERS: The gifts will be presented by the first communicant(s) and their families. A list will be provided for each mass in advance to the ushers. Also pews will need reserved seating bows placed in advance. The number and location of reserved pews will be provided.
4. PROCESSION: The first communicant(s) will be part of the opening and closing procession. The order of procession is that the first communicant(s) will immediately precede the presider. After mass the first communicant(s) will stand with the presider and greet the congregation.
5. LECTORS: The first communicant(s) will be prayed for in the general intercessions.
6. ALTAR SERVERS: The altar servers will need to hand the presider the first communicant's certificates etc. These items will be on a table behind the presider's chair and will be given to the first communicant(s) after the announcements are read. The first communicant(s) will be called forward, receive their certificate(s) and then process out with the presider. The presider will guide them through this process.