Worship Commission Meeting January 18, 2016

Attendance: Fr. David Mowry, Lisa Grisolia, Maria Wilbert, Tom Kaiser, Mary Pat Vanderlaan, Dave McCaffrey, Lucy Milar, Peg Cello, Jim Viola, Mary Lou Rafferty and Joyce Callahan.

Faith Sharing: We read 1 Cor 12:12-30. The theme was about each person being baptized into one body, with God placing each part as he intended. Each part is necessary and belongs to the same body and one Spirit.

Minutes: Minutes were approved with one amendment – Joyce Callahan was present at the November meeting.

Parish Council: Father David reported out on the January Council meeting. Father Tom desires several goals:

1) to create a Pastoral Plan for the Parish regarding evangelization, charity and discipleship - as part of the diocese’ “Framework of Pastoral Action”.

2) to celebrate the 140th anniversary of our Parish. A Mass is scheduled where Bishop Siegel will officiate - November 6 at 11:30. There will be other activities planned.

It was decided that each third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM during the Year of Mercy, we will have Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration and Evening Prayer. The first will be held on January 19 at 7:00 in the Church. The next will be on February 16. In lieu of the next leadership night, the parish leadership is invited to attend the February 16 Holy Hour from 7:00 – 8:00, followed by light refreshment and fellowship. An invitation for the Holy Hour will be sent out to the deanery, and this will be discussed at the Deanery Steering Committee meeting scheduled for January 19. In June we will have a regular leadership night on June 20.

Review of Year of Family: A bulletin article closed out the Year of Family. It was overtaken by the Year of Mercy.

Review of Christmas Caroling: The rain held off until the end. A good number of people participated. James did a great job of assisting. The hot chocolate took 45 minutes to heat up. The music was good, and just enough songs. The handouts were well done. For next year, we may want to consider going immediately to the caroling and serve the cookies and chocolate afterwards. Also concern was expressed about being so close to York Street traffic – so will want to set up some precautions. May want to include gluten free options.

Review of Christmas: Maria said the volunteers scheduling went OK although she was busy all thru Christmas Eve with changes, so it was challenging. Many volunteers did not show up, or only at the last minute.

There was no 3:00 Mass because diocese said not OK. There were record numbers at the three 4:00 Masses. Plunkett Hall had 550 chairs set up and still not enough. The 6:00 Mass was not well attended – about 200 people. We discussed whether to cancel the 6:00 Mass, but it was recommended that we do a better job of marketing how beautiful it is – people are able to sit with their families, and not run into the problem of people saving space for other family members and friends. 11:00 PM Mass had about 300 people in the Church. The 7:30 was about the same as a regular Sunday, and 9:00 was lightly attended. For next year we recommend that the late morning Mass be at 11:00 rather than 11:30. There was a recommendation that we consider listing the times of all the Christmas Elmhurst Masses in bulletin or on webpage. The music was fantastic, and the Church and Chapel were decorated to the level of awesome. Just a heads up that Easter this year we will have the Vigil on Saturday, and 5 Masses on Sunday: 7:30; 2 at 9:00; and 2 at 11:30.

Year of Mercy: On December 8, Bishop Conlon visited the High School, and celebrated Mass.

Next we discussed how we might be able to keep the Church open for periods of time for pilgrims to make a visit and pray at this Pilgrimage Church. We will call this “Pilgrimage Church Hours”. (By the way, the Pilgrimage Churches in diocese are: Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet; St. John the Baptist in Winfield; IC in Elmhurst; Ss. Peter and Paul, Naperville; St. Patrick, Yorkville; St. Mary in Mokena; St. John the Baptist, Joliet; St. Patrick in Kankakee, and IC in Gilman). There are several criteria to consider: We do not want to have the Church open during the school day. It is important that it be at the same time on a regular schedule. We need at minimum one person to volunteer to be there during the time the Church is open and volunteers must be 18 years or older and have taken the Protecting God’s Children training (do we need to confirm this?). It would be the Church, not the Chapel. We do not want to have it at times when funerals or weddings occur. Generally funerals start at 9:30 on Saturdays, and in the unlikely event that there are two, the second is at 11:00. We came up with 2 plausible options – 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturdays or 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Tuesdays. After much discussion we recommend 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturdays. WC members volunteered to cover the initial times, and Maria recorded the volunteers. We decided to begin the first Saturday in Lent which is February 13, 2016. Mary Pat agreed to do a bulletin insert (for February 5/6 and periodically thereafter) and newsletter article (for February newsletter), and a note that Maria can send out to gather volunteers.

We ran out of time to discuss the March 4-5 Twenty Four Hours of Confession, and how we will obtain volunteers to keep watch with the Priests. We need to discuss this at our next meeting which is February 18 at 7:00 PM (we will not meet on President’s Day, which is our regularly scheduled meeting date).

Father David did a letter on what is mercy for the January Parish Newsletter for the Year of Mercy.

Lucy shared with us a list of potential Saints, and all the webpages and data about them, including which of the corporal or spiritual works of mercy they exhibited. It was a great deal of research and preparation, so thank you Lucy! The following is the list of writers:

February: Lucy

March: Jim

April: Mary Lou

May: Peg

June: Father David

July: Tom K.

August: Dave

September: Joyce

October: Mary Lou

November: Tom K.

If there are two Saints listed, authors may choose which one to write about. **The drafts are due to Mary Pat by the 18th of the month so that she can get it to Maria in plenty of time, but at latest to Maria by the 25th of each month.** Please submit the articles in word format so they can be edited as needed.

The Subcommittee (Tom, Mary Pat, anyone else?) for planning the future monthly Holy Hour events did not meet as planned and we ran out of time to discuss further. Therefore here is a list of special days beginning in March, of prayer during the Holy Year of Mercy which Pope Francis will observe from which we may consider options for themes for our Holy Hours:

March 4-5: Twenty four Hours for the Lord with the Sacrament of Reconciliation

April 3: Jubilee for those who are devoted to the spirituality of Divine Mercy

April 24: Jubilee for teens, ages 13-16 to profess their faith and construct a culture of mercy

May 26: Jubilee for deacons

June 3: Jubilee foe priests

June 12: Jubilee for those who are ill and for persons with disabilities

July 26-31: Jubilee for youth (World Youth Day in Krakow)

Sept, 4: Jubilee for workers and volunteers of mercy

Sept. 25: Jubilee for catechists

Oct. 8-9: Marian Jubilee

Nov. 6: Jubilee for prisoners

IC Holy Hours are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month. Using the ideas above, the subcommittee will submit to the Worship Commission a draft for consideration by January 29. We will also need to advertise across the diocese so that people can come “on pilgrimage” to our Church, and thus gain a plenary indulgence during the Holy Year of Mercy. We need to work with Father David to plan and choose readings so that we can minimize the number and versions of worship aids.

Dave presented the IC Jubilee Year of Mercy at IC schedule. It is very good! Thank you Dave. The other versions for handing out at Baptisms, etc. is on hold.

Liturgical Ministers: There will be a training for Lectors and Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers on February 16th and February 20th (please note – February 16th is Leadership Night/Holy Hour, so need to amend date).

Father David closed the meeting with a Glory Be and blessing. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Next WC meeting will be held on THURSDAY February 18th at 7:00 PM.