Worship Commission Meeting – November 21, 2016

Attendance: Fr. Christopher Lankford, Lisa Grisolia, Tom Kaiser, Mary Pat Vanderlaan, Jim Viola, David McCaffrey, Joyce Callahan and Mary Lou Rafferty.

Faith Sharing: Jim led us as we read from Psalm 122 “Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord!” and the Gospel of Matthew 24:37-44. “…So it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken and one will be left…Therefore, stay awake…” We discussed these and know that we must do what is expected of us, to put ourselves into the hand of God, yet be ready.

Minutes: October minutes were approved.

Parish Council: Worship Commission welcomed Paul Taviana as the Parish Council member, (and Mary Pat Tyson is also a new member of the PC). Paul reported that Father Tom wants a report out on our progress on implementation of the Pastoral Plan at the January PC meeting. The goals are general, so what specific objectives do we have for the WC? For example, we could look at our progress on decreasing of absentee ministers as an indicator. We also discussed whether we need an Altar Server coordinator. Presently Maria and Father Chris are managing this so Father will talk with Maria and return a recommendation for further discussion. Father wants to have more 6th graders trained soon. Most of the children are IC rather than RE. Paul offered to meet with Father Chris and Maria. Another specific objective might be to “increase # of Altar Servers by X%; and trained by AB date. Another indicator might be # RE children in music ministry, with increase by end of school year. Lisa plans to reach out to Jo and Sister Mary Frances in spring to involve RE children in the music ministry. Mary Lou agreed to work with Lisa on this. Paul also reported that Father Tom wants more active participation in deanery meetings which occur monthly from 7-9:00 PM at Mary Queen or Ascension. Paul will cover the January meeting. PC wants someone who will consistently cover the meeting.

Year of Mercy: Recap of the successful year

* Pilgrimage Church – Although not well attended, this was beautiful for those who did attend. When Father Chris did the ceremonial closing of the Holy Doors, there were several people who contacted him to see if they could still obtain the indulgence.
* Monthly Holy Hours – The November Holy Hour to pray for deceased we well. These Holy Hours were very beautiful and many people participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It was noted that we now also will have First Friday confessions after the 6:15 AM Mass. They became more logistically complex over the year with planning and music required by staff. Father will consult with Father Tom and staff (or PC) to see if this is something we want to continue (perhaps as part of the proposal for the window and possible focus on the year of the Apostles- more to come on that below).
* Monthly Saint and spiritual/corporal works of mercy newsletter articles – These went very well and the authors all enjoyed doing this. Thank you, Maria, for getting them into the newsletters.
* The Year of Mercy ended with a ceremonial “Closing of the Jubilee Door and prayer on November 20 at the 7:30 AM Mass.

Ministries

* Next Liturgical training March 7 and 11.

140 Year Anniversary

* Great work by Worship Commission – everything was beautiful – the Mass was so special for all. Father Tom sent a special note to the WC thanking us for making the reception so successful. Father Chris said the prior Priests were so pleased to attend and visit.

New Theme for 2017

* Dave had submitted a proposal for a new theme for 2017: Year of the Saints or Apostles beginning in January 2017. We discussed whether this would continue to by a Holy Hour with Confessions; or more focused on the grade and high school students, where they could each take one saint on the third Tuesday of the month; or could it be associated with the Feast Days of the Apostles; we talked about possibly connecting it to the family Mass; we questioned whether the Parish Council wants IC to have a special Holy Hour each month – and we discussed the fact that there is a Holy Hour for Respect Life on the fourth Tuesday of the Month led by Deacon John – do we want to continue to have 2 Holy Hours; we talked about doing articles again for each Saint and placing in bulletin and newsletter; we discussed the concept of the visiting statue that we did for the Year of Mary – How might we build in such a concept; It is too late to start in January with Christmas coming – so we talked about starting in Lent (March 1st is Ash Wednesday); will there be a diocesan or papal or parish theme and should we wait to see what will emerge; if Pope Francis does a theme on youth and vocations, this would fit in very well, since our Apostles certainly had a vocation!; who do we need to consult with besides Father Tom; there was a concern that we do not want to confuse people if the Pope does come out with a theme and we have something else.
* We decided to form a subcommittee to work through these ideas and come up with a proposal for the Worship Commission to send to the appropriate people for consultation/decision. That meeting is on December 15 at 7:00 PM.

Advent:

* We agreed that we would do the caroling again on the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Lisa has the song cards and 4 carols. 7/8th grade children will sing. The crib will be lit, and we will process immediately to the crib and have sweets afterward. Tom and Dave will bring the hot chocolate and cookies. Those who want to help should be there at 5:00 PM. Tom will send a note to Jeff requesting a table, urn, electrical cord, etc. Jeff will be responsible for lighting the crib at the appropriate time. Caroling first, snacks second.

Other

Father Chris closed the meeting with a special blessing. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Next WC meeting is January 16 (Tom and Father Chris can you please confirm since this is Martin Luther King Day – do we still meet?).