Worship Commission Meeting - March 10, 2016

Attendance: Fr. David Mowry, Tom Kaiser, Mary Pat Vanderlaan, Lucy Milar, Peg Cello, Mary Lou Rafferty and Joyce Callahan.

Faith Sharing: We read John 11: 1-45, the story of Lazarus. The reflection was on redemptive suffering. Thank you Lucy.

Minutes: Minutes were approved.

Parish Council: Parish Council was meeting at the same time as the Worship Commission so there was no report.

Year of Mercy:

* Pilgrimage Open House – We discussed whether we might use the same scheduling system used for the 24 Hours of Confession. Currently, Maria is effectively tracking the volunteers with a spreadsheet. Tom will speak with Dave, and Peg will inform Maria of our discussion. We discussed the logistics relating to getting and returning the key and whether the process may discourage some from volunteering as hosts. We also discussed adding phone number(s) to the instruction in case of emergency (Peg? Mary Pat?). Father David agreed to test whether the key will fit into the safe. Both Peg and Mary Pat are OK with adding their phone numbers. Mary Pat agreed to send a note to Jeff so he can make a sign for the Pilgrimage Church for Saturdays. Father David will relay to the maintenance crew to place the sign, along with table and chair, in the narthex of the Church on Fridays. The host for the first hour will need to place the sign out in front and the second host will return it to the closet.
* 24 Hours with the Lord – Confession. The success of the March 4-5 24 hour Confession went beyond expectations. Estimates of recipients of the sacrament ranged up to 800 people. There were times when 75 people were waiting in line. There were people who had been away from the sacrament for decades. Father David relayed Father Tom’s and his great thanks to the volunteers and visiting priests. Father is unsure whether we will do this again. The signs worked very well to direct people to the Church.
* Monthly Holy Hours – We continued the conversation about the themes for the Holy Hours and the option to have additional devotions or reflections during the time of Adoration when Father is hearing confessions. This could occur starting about 7:20 PM for about 10-15 minutes. We also want to have adequate time for silence. For March Holy Hour, (forgiveness of sins), Tom and Mary Pat will develop a reflection and send to Father David for his approval by Monday, March 14. For April, we will do the Chaplet of Divine Worship. For June, Father David hopes to find a way to recognize and thank the Deacons of the Deanery at that Holy Hour. Peg agreed to draft up an invitation for Father David to send to the Deanery Priests to invite their Deacons to the June 21 Holy Hour. For the rest of the year, Tom and Mary Pat will submit a proposal to the Commission for discussion at our next meeting.
* Monthly Saint and spiritual/corporal works of mercy newsletter articles – These are going very well. Mary Lou is up next and April is due to Mary Pat by March 19.
* Special services for Year of Mercy - We discussed the fact that after Easter, the Jubilee Year of Mercy trifold handout will be out of date. We want to minimize revisions to the trifold and to finalize our proposals for the remainder of this year. We discussed doing a Taize prayer service, and understand that Lisa is interested in doing this. St. Alexander is interested in doing a special Jubilee Mass at our church. We discussed whether we want to do a “Closing out of the Year of Mercy with a ceremonial “closing of the Jubilee Door” in November. We also discussed Father Tom’s preference that we keep summer light, and the reality that October and November are very busy. We also want to see what other Pilgrimage churches are doing to celebrate. In summary, we will pursue the Taize and Closing of the Pilgrimage Door (maybe the 5:15 Mass on Feast of Christ the King (November 27)). Mary Lou will follow up with Lisa to plan a date for Taize. Joyce will contact the other Pilgrimage Churches to find out what they are doing, and will e-mail the Commission to determine if we recommend other activities. Once we finalize our plans, Dave (thank you Dave!) can update the trifold.

Ministries

* Concern was raised about purificators that may have been inadvertently soaked with Precious Blood. Peg will check into this and Father David will pay additional attention. We reiterated that youth should be distributing the host.
* The Liturgical Minister training for Lectors and Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers went well. Three EEMs and 1 Lector were trained.

Easter- The lectors, servers and EEMs will receive instructions from Father David. There will be a deacon at each Mass. Father David asked whether we have recommendations for member of the ministries who may consider having their feet washed (who may not have had this experience already) on Holy Thursday – He would like to hear back by March 17.

Father David closed the meeting with a blessing for us to have a fruitful and holy remainder of Lent. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Next WC meeting will be held on Monday April 18th at 7:00 PM.