

These meeting minutes were approved  
at the 13 December 2005 meeting.

**Spiritual Growth and Liturgy Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting of 8 November 2005**

**Participants:** Gary and Kay Aitchison, Kelli Faidley, Bill Haas, Bob Hauser, Ron Rasmussen, Cyndi Volcko, and Jacque Zbaracki

**A. Call to Order/Prayer**

Bob Hauser called the meeting to order at approximately 7 pm. We began with the Prayer of the Day from **Daily Prayer 2005**.

**B. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting (October 11) were corrected and approved.

**C. Spiritual Growth and Liturgy Committee Self-Assessment**

The committee continued work on the self-assessment process started in September. Committee members shared their thoughts on how we might address the principal spiritual needs of the parish as identified during the October meeting. The needs and suggested approaches to address them are listed below.

1. Meaningful spiritual liturgies that connect us to the Eucharist as individuals and as community. Continuing basic instruction on the meaning of and appropriate participation in the parts of the Mass is needed.
  - Liturgical aids (Bob Hauser noted he plans to prepare these for Advent)
  - The book, *Living Liturgy*, contains many good suggestions and will be a valuable resource.
  - Gary and Kay Aitchison noted that the Family Life Committee is preparing handouts regarding family activities for Advent.
  - Publish information and reflection material regarding the next Sunday's scripture readings; make that information available in the chapel for adorers; encourage participation in the group that meets each week to study and reflect on the next Sunday's scripture readings.
  - Offer a retreat on first morning in Lent.
  - Offer a formation program during Lent.
  - Study a church document, e. g., [Instruction Redemptionis Sacramentum](#) (*On certain matters to be observed or to be avoided regarding the Most Holy Eucharist*) From the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacrament, March 25, 2004;
  - Subscribe to [Magnificat](#) worship aid magazine and make a few copies available in the church and the chapel
  - Encourage Father Terry to provide instruction as part of his homilies. The instruction on an important topic or theme could be given as parts of several homilies over a period of time.
2. Increased appreciation of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

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- Provide attention to and instruction on sacramentals / reverences. Remember we all serve as role models for each other.
  - Study a church document, e. g., [Ecclesia De Eucharistia](#) (*On the Eucharist in its Relationship to the Church*) April 17, 2003 Encyclical by Pope John Paul II
3. Knowledge, skills, and methods to share our faith, spread the Good News, and foster vocations.
- Sponsor speakers / teachers on the subject.
  - Take advantage of speaker / teacher opportunities sponsored by other parishes / congregations in the area. Examples include St. Thomas Aquinas, Fr. Supple chair at ISU, St. Joseph parish in Des Moines, Our Lady's Immaculate Heart parish in Ankeny, Saints John and Paul parish in Altoona, diocesan presentations, e. g., Fr. Ron Rolheiser at Gateway Center, Ames on April 2 & 3, 2006; other diocesan presentations in Des Moines. Advertise heavily, perhaps including special verbal invitations organized by community life coordinator.
  - Use the prayer for vocations in the back of the Music issue at weekend Mass each month.
  - Encourage vocations by having breakfast for Father & servers. A breakfast involving a visiting sister might also be arranged.
  - Utilize bulletin inserts such as the Catholic Update series on "Eucharist" from St. Anthony Messenger Press. Offer discussion groups on the bulletin inserts after masses. JD is willing to be a facilitator.

Identification of approaches for the following needs was postponed until the December meeting.

4. A spiritual community in which all, especially young people and families, feel welcomed, cared about, and called by name; also a community that reaches out to help others in material or spiritual need.
5. Help in forming, maintaining, and improving appropriate relationships with God and our fellow pilgrims – emphasizing action, including worship, appreciation, communication, love, caring, evangelization, growth.

### **D. Advent/Christmas**

Kelli Faidley volunteered to help with the Advent/Christmas decoration.

**Advent.** Bob Hauser noted that Advent decorating will begin at 9 am Saturday, November 27. Ron Rasmussen volunteered to move the plants from the church to the Education Center hall west of the chapel this week.

**Christmas.** Bob Hauser noted that Hanging of the Greens will occur on Sunday, December 18.

Bill Haas reported on a proposal to locate the Giving Tree at the front of church and the Nativity scene at the back of the church this year. A change from previous practice is needed because Father Terry wants to provide additional seating at the front for Christmas. The committee supported the proposal but some details regarding activities involving the Giving Tree need to be worked out.

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**E. Recap of Events in the Last Month**

1. Joan Carter McHugh – Committee members reported that approximately 125-150 attended and that the presentation was well received. The talk was about one half on the Mass and one half on healing. Her personal testimony was powerful. Bob Hauser distributed copies of McHugh's book, **The Mass**, to committee members.
2. Sister Therese Even – Committee members reported that Sister Therese's presentations were also well received. Estimates of attendance were: Sunday ~ 200; Monday ~ 150; Tuesday ~200.
3. Bob Hauser reported on the All Saints and All Souls celebrations held on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Music ministers from all weekend Mass times served for the evening All Saints day celebration. The All Souls day service was well attended; participation appears to be growing.
4. Good Neighbor Concert – Bob Hauser reported that the Saint Cecilia choir participated in the November 6<sup>th</sup> benefit concert for Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance. The concert was hosted by Collegiate United Methodist Church and involved choir members from 14 local churches.

**F. Server Training**

Bob Hauser reported that 22 servers have been trained since the last meeting; 2 more will be trained soon.

**G. Upcoming Events**

1. Praise Cecilia Night – at approximately 6:30 pm Saturday, November 19 (after the 5 pm Mass) a music group organized by Tim Gaul will perform.
2. Thomas Merton play – Lisa Wagner's Still Point Theater performance of the Thomas Merton play will be at Saint Cecilia's on November 20. The play is sponsored by the Burns-Donovan Foundation.
3. Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe – December 12, Hispanic Mass at 5:30 pm pending availability of a priest and eager organizers. Bob Hauser has alerted Rosemary Wilson.
4. Adult Faith Formation Conference at Gateway Center, Ames – Father Ronald Rolheiser is featured presenter for this conference sponsored by the four Iowa Dioceses. 7-9 pm on Sunday April 2 and 8:30 am to 3:30 pm on Monday, April 3, 2006. For brochure and registration form, click [here](#).

**H. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned with prayer at approximately 8:40 pm.

**Next meeting at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 13, 2005 (most likely in Music Room).**

Respectfully submitted, Bill Haas