

These meeting minutes were approved  
at the 14 March meeting.

**Spiritual Growth and Liturgy Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting of 20 February 2006**

**Participants:** Gary and Kay Aitchison, Jo Anne Dalhoff, Bill Haas, Bob Hauser, Ron Rasmussen, Cyndi Volcko, and Jacque Zbaracki

**A. Call to Order/Prayer**

Bob Hauser called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm and led the committee in the Prayer of the Day from *Daily Prayer 2006*.

**B. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as distributed.

**C. Lent**

1. **Scrutiny Readings** – Bob Hauser reported we will be using cycle-A scripture readings at the 9:30 Masses (as appropriate for the candidates/catechumens) and cycle-B readings (normal cycle for this year) at the other weekend liturgies.
2. **Lenten Video** – Bob Hauser provided a viewing of part of the four-tape videotape series, “A Lenten Journey with Michael Himes” for the committee.  
<http://catalog.americancatholic.org/product.aspx?prodid=V5040>. Bob proposed that it be offered after the Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent. The committee concurred enthusiastically. Bob said he would try to line up facilitators/discussion leaders from those who have participated in the Lay Ministry training program. Bob said he would publicize the video series.
3. **Black Booklets** – Bob Hauser reported that the Black Booklets (similar to the blue booklets) have arrived and that he will make them available at the back of the church and at the chapel.
4. **Decorate for the season** – It was decided that committee members will decorate for the Lenten season beginning at 3 pm Sunday, February 26 (tentative).

**D. SG&L Committee Self Assessment**

- The committee considered its previous work on this subject as compiled and distributed by Bill Haas prior to the meeting.
- It was noted that decisions/actions resulting from the assessment process will need to be woven into the existing Calendar of Events.
- It was noted that we have been publicizing many opportunities for spiritual growth in the bulletin, e. g., Ron Rolheiser conference, Christian Experience Weekends, Couples’ Retreats, etc.
- It was noted that we have implemented the liturgical guidelines of the universal and archdiocesan church.

There was considerable discussion on

**Need 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.**

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The following points were noted.

- The worshiper's preparation for liturgy is what makes it more meaningful and spiritual.
- The Whole Community Catechesis web site, <http://www.wholecommunitycatechesis.com/pages/questions.html>, provides the scripture readings for each Sunday's liturgy and a "Question of the Week," one for adults and another for children. We could put the readings and questions for the upcoming weekend in the bulletin each week and encourage parish members to use them for preparation for the weekend liturgy.
- Jo Anne Dalhoff noted that the Des Moines diocese has a "Mass Book," which contains what you need to go to Mass prepared. We could put excerpts in the bulletin as a guide.
- *Magnifikid!*, a publication to bring the Mass and prayer closer to the lives of children, is available from the publishers of *Magnificat*. For more information, see: <http://www.magnificat.net/us/magnifikid/indexkid.htm> and <http://www.magnificat.net/index.htm>.  
The annual subscription price for churches or schools is \$16.65/subscription for a minimum order of 5 subscriptions; \$10.40/subscription for a minimum of 50 subscriptions. We may want to consider a budget request for this.
- It was noted that music is very important for liturgy because it can move and involve people. For that reason, the choice of music and involvement of the people in it merit special attention.
- There was some discussion of the possibility of providing special presentations (talks, videos, teachings), perhaps at homily or reflection times during the weekend liturgies (because that's when we have attendance).

### **Need 2. Increased appreciation of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.**

The following points were made during the discussion:

- A 1994 *New York Times* survey concluded that "almost two-thirds" of Catholics did not believe that the elements were really changed into the body and blood of Christ. Based on a number of studies, sociologist David Davidson concluded in 2001 that while the majority of Catholics still believe in the Real Presence, there has been some decline.
- This need is closely related to Need 1.
- Catechesis is needed.

### **Need 3. Knowledge, skills, and methods to share our faith, spread the Good News, and foster vocations.**

The following points were noted during the discussion:

- Adult faith formation is essential.
- We should emphasize Small Christian Communities again, perhaps also help existing communities such as CFM groups, Teams of Our Lady, etc.

### **Need 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.**

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- Noted that we have experimented with meeting someone new and exchanging personal information before Mass on two occasions, as one way of trying to build a warmer, more welcoming community. We realize some would rather remain isolated. When done as part of calling the community to worship, this is not in conflict with guidance that a quiet time of prayer and preparation be observed before Mass. We're thinking of doing this once a month.
- We have already adopted the practice of identifying the servers by name.
- Hopefully we will be recognizing others as well as the year proceeds, e. g., leaders of the Liturgy of the Word for Children, instrumentalists, RCIA team members, new members, and others mentioned in earlier discussions, etc.

**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.**

The following were noted during the discussion:

- We need teaching and practice on key skills, for example, like the teaching and practice on being a good listener that Liz Chrisinger led for Parish Council, Finance and Administration Committee, and Board of Education members. Like that provided on prayer by Sister Therese Evan.
- We need specific helpful suggestions like those provided by Gary and Kay Aitchison in their recent homily on marriage, e. g., ten minutes exclusive face-to-face conversation each day.

**E. Greeting New Parishioners**

Bob Hauser noted that the Parish Community Life Committee has asked us to see that lectors, in their “Welcome to this celebration . . .,” message at the beginning of Mass, include a special welcome to any new parishioners and visitors that may be present. Bill Haas noted that that message is already being added (perhaps by the parish office) to the notes that are furnished for the lectors.

**F. The Brief Introductions Read by the Lector before the Old Testament Scripture Readings.**

A number of people have said that they find these introductory readings to be very helpful to them in listening to and understanding the readings. There is nothing in the guidelines to prohibit us from using them. We should continue using them.

**G. Lay Ministry**

- The document Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry, developed by the Committee on the Laity of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), was approved by the full body of bishops at its November 2005 General Meeting, and is now available on the internet. <http://www.usccb.org/laity/laymin/co-workers.pdf>
- There was discussion regarding the possibility of defraying lay minister expenses but no clear conclusion.

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**H. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at approximately 9:40 pm.

**Next meeting at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, 2006 (most likely in the Music Room).**

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Haas