

These meeting minutes were reviewed and approved
at the February 22 meeting.

**Spiritual Growth and Liturgy Committee
Minutes of the meeting of 25 January 2007**

Participants: Bill Haas, Bob Hauser, Father Ivan Nienhaus, Tom Samson, Sue Stanton, Cyndi Volcko and Jacque Zbaracki

A. Call to Order/Prayer

Bob Hauser called the meeting to order in the Music Room at approximately 7 pm and led the committee in The Gospel of Life prayer.

B. Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the October 26 and November 29 meetings were approved as distributed.

C. Gathering Space Table

Cyndi Volcko showed sketches for four different conceptual designs proposed by Ben and Jan Svec. The committee members preferred the design based on the gathering center pillars and gothic arch windows with four-way matching top and edge based on the gathering center cornice. The committee asked Cyndi to get a cost estimate.

D. Advent/Christmas

1. Outdoor Manger Scene

The committee discussed having this inside or outside. The following points were agreed upon.

- The advent wreath is an appropriate focal point for the Gathering Space.
- The Giving Tree is also an appropriate thing for the Gathering Space but needn't occupy so prominent a location as it did in 2006.
- The Outdoor Manger Scene activity is a witness to the external community as well as to those in the Saint Cecilia community.
- The comfort of the Manger Scene participants is a concern.
- If the Manger is located facing east in the grassy area north of the church and west of the Gather Space entrance, the enclosure would provide some shelter from the north and northwest winds.
- Manger scene participants should wear winter clothing under their costumes.
- The activity could include playing appropriate Advent music.

2. Rushing Into Christmas

It was agreed that there is a tendency to "rush" the Christmas season – putting up Christmas trees and other Christmas decorations early and mailing out Christmas cards early, before we have really gotten into Advent. We should all – including our parish, parish office, and school – resist this tendency.

3. Keep Christ in Christmas Posters

Bob Hauser asked if the panel display of the Keep Christ in Christmas posters worked out. Some thought the posters were not as accessible in the Social Hall. However, Bill Haas reported that others had noted that the new display arrangements in the Social Hall presented the posters under much better lighting conditions than had been available in the church. The committee concluded that the arrangements used this year were satisfactory.

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E. Lent/Holy Week

Bob Hauser led the committee through consideration, discussion and action concerning Lent/Holy Week activities. The conclusions were as follows:

1. **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21 – 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm**
2. **Stations of the Cross – Fridays of Lent at 6:00 pm**
3. **Adult Education set up by John Hayes – 7:00 or 7:30 pm Feb. 28, Mar. 21 & 28**
Topics: The Mass (Fr. Ev), The Bible (Deacon John), Baptism (Fr. Nienhaus)
4. **Communal Reconciliation – March 22 and March 27 at 7:30 pm**
5. **Holy Week Liturgies**
 - Holy Thursday – 7:30 pm**
 - Good Friday – 2:00 pm Stations of the Cross with communion**
7:30 pm Liturgy
 - Easter Vigil – 7:30 pm**
6. **Music during Lenten liturgies**

Bob Hauser proposed omitting music during the offertory and communion during Lent, to emphasize the season and to encourage more prayer and contemplation during those parts of the Mass. The committee encouraged him to proceed, perhaps including some appropriate instrumental-only music.

Father Nienhaus noted that we would put both Saint Cecilia and Saint Thomas Aquinas Lent/Holy Week schedule information in our bulletin.

F. Day of Penance for an end to abortion

Committee members reported that attendance was pretty good – 14 participants at one rosary session; 30 at another.

G. Holy Day Information.

Bob Hauser provided information disseminated by the archdiocesan Office of Worship concerning the norms on the obligation to attend mass on holy days and on the celebration of ritual masses and masses for the dead. Please see page 4 of these minutes.

H. Fr. Haddad Update

Sue Stanton reported. Fr. Haddad will be here for a whole week; most of his time here is booked. Coexistence gatherings are scheduled for April 21 & 22 (1:00 to 3:00 pm tentatively), in the Social Hall – men on one day; women on the other. Invited Jewish, Muslim, and Saint Cecilia participants will discuss values common to all – no dogma. The invitation was extended to Jewish and Muslim communities in the Ames and Des Moines areas.

I. Perpetual Adoration

Cyndi Volcko reported.

1. The group will participate in the Parish Ministry Fair.
2. They are planning a Soup Supper for Wednesday, March 28, for adorers and the whole parish. They will be asking for RSVPs.

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3. Planning for Corpus Christi celebration is under way. They are considering a procession to Inis Grove park with refreshments at the park. They will likely invite the Hispanic community to participate.
4. The 49th International Eucharistic Congress will be held in Quebec City, June 15-22, 2008. http://www.cei2008.ca/pages-en/cng_presentation.htm
Father Nienhaus encouraged the group to make early arrangements for bus transportation and accommodations.

J. Outdoor Banners

Cyndi Volcko reported for herself and JoAnne Dalhoff. There are 8 light poles to decorate. They propose to put a banner with a graphic on each of the two end poles and a plain banner on each of the other six poles. They propose purple banners for lent and advent; with a candle and flame or cross and crown of thorns as the graphic. For Easter the banners would be white – graphic yet to be determined. Possibilities suggested included Easter lily, sunburst, He Is Risen, rainbow. The estimated cost is \$100 per banner.

K. Winter Liturgy Bulletin

Bob Hauser distributed copies of the Winter 2007 issue of the of the *Liturgy Bulletin* from the Archdiocesan Office of Worship.

Please see <http://www.arch.pvt.k12.ia.us/Worship/PDFs/07winterlitbul.pdf>.

L. Welcoming Atmosphere

Father Nienhaus noted that the lector, music leader, and presider often offer welcome statements at the weekend Masses; one would be sufficient. Bill Haas and Father Nienhaus also noted that the music leaders' introduction of songs too often included more words than needed to simply indicate the name of the song, where it can be found, and to invite participation. After discussion, the committee agreed that the lector would offer the welcome and that the music leaders would be urged to stick to the essentials.

M. Prayer for Vocations

Bill Haas asked that we establish a procedure to regularly pray the Prayer for Vocations together at weekend Masses, as we had previously decided. The committee agreed to have the lector lead the prayer on the first weekend of each month, before his announcement after communion.

N. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned with chanting of the Our Father at 8:55 pm.

Next meeting: In the Music Room, 7:00 pm Thursday, February 22, 2007.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Haas