

These meeting minutes were approved
at the April 26 meeting.

**Spiritual Growth and Liturgy Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2007**

Participants: Gary and Kay Aitchison, Sandy Fagan, Bill Haas, Bob Hauser, Fr. Nienhaus, Tom Samson, Sue Stanton, Cyndi Volcko

A. Call to Order/Prayer.

Bob Hauser called the meeting to order in the Social Hall at approximately 7 pm and led the committee in prayer and song.

B. Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.

The minutes of the February 22 meeting were approved as drafted.

C. Communal Reconciliation Services – March 22 and March 27 – 7:30 pm.

Bob asked for committee members to help with readings, etc.
Gary and Kay Aitchison said they would help on March 22.
Bill Haas and Sandy Fagan said they would help on March 27.

D. Letter from Archbishop Hanus regarding purification of patens and chalices used in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Father Nienhaus distributed copies of the letter and asked the committee to consider it in preparation for next month's meeting.

E. Our Lady of Guadalupe Painting – continued.

The Hispanic community would like a permanent placement for the Our Lady of Guadalupe painting in the Chapel. An additional requirement is that the painting can be taken down from time to time for veneration or processions. Last month it was suggested that one chair be removed from the altar area and that the painting be placed on an easel in the northeast corner of the Chapel. However, there is concern that such a mounting will not provide adequate stability, especially in view of the fact that easels are used for several other displays, including, for example, Divine Mercy, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sacred Heart of Jesus. After considering a number of other display possibilities, the committee agreed that, on a trial basis, we would hang the Our Lady of Guadalupe painting on the east wall of the chapel, in place of the Franciscan cross, and we would move the processional cross and stand to the chapel.

F. Holy Week preparation.

1. Palm Sunday

- Committee members will do ½ of the decorating beginning Friday at 10 am.
- Committee members will do 2nd ½ of the decorating beginning Saturday at 10 am.
- Committee members will tear down beginning Monday at 9 am.

2. Holy Thursday

- Committee members will put up a banner on the preceding Wednesday.
- Cyndi Volcko will make arrangements for adoration to cease at midnight.

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- Bob Hauser will ask Kathy Gerbracht to decorate the chapel for repose of the Blessed Sacrament.
 - Committee members will help with stripping the altar after the Thursday evening liturgy.
3. Good Friday
- Stations of the Cross at 2 pm; Passion liturgy at 7:30 pm.
4. Easter Vigil
- Committee members will decorate the church Saturday beginning at 10:30 am.

G. Feedback Concerning Silence During Communion and Latin Music.

Bob Hauser and various other committee members reported that some parishioners are discomfited by the silence. It was also that although some appreciate the Latin music, others do not. Father Nienhaus suggested that committee members study what the Vatican is saying about celebration of the Eucharist. He referred to Pope Benedict XVI's apostolic exhortation, *Sacramentum Caritatis*, on the Eucharist as the source and summit of the church's life and mission, at the Vatican website (www.vatican.va), and to an article on page 5 of the March 25 issue of *Our Sunday Visitor*. Father also said he would consider providing some catechesis regarding prayer during the time of the communion procession.

H. Visiting in Gathering Space, Not in Worship Space.

Bill Haas distributed copies of an email message he received from parishioner Bill Schnieder. Mr. Schnieder encouraged us to suggest, in the nicest possible way, that those who wish to visit with others when they come to Mass do that visiting in the gathering space, not in the vestibule or the church itself. He also suggested keeping the doors closed that separate the church from the gathering space, to keep the chatter out of the worship space. Committee discussion of the topic included the following:

1. We want to encourage reverence/prayer and visiting/community. We've tried to encourage both within the worship environment until now because we haven't had separate visiting and worship spaces. Now we do and we need to change. However, some patience may be needed because habits may have formed.
2. We can move much of the chatter out of the vestibule area if we continue to urge the ushers and greeters to do their welcoming/greeting near the entrance to the gathering space rather than near or in the vestibule area. It was also suggested that the ushers hand out bulletins in the gathering space rather than in the vestibule.
3. The noise from opening/closing the doors might be worse than the chatter unless we are able to quiet the doors. We will investigate quieting the doors.
4. The problem is exacerbated by the acoustical properties of the present building (brick walls in the vestibule; megaphone shape of the enclosure). We might ameliorate those by hanging fabric or acoustical absorption materials in the vestibule and rear of the church, however, we're talking about building a new worship space, which will have entirely different acoustical properties.

I. Divine Mercy Sunday – April 15.

Cyndi Volcko agreed to prepare information on this and associated devotional activities for publication in the parish bulletin.

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J. Prayer Cards.

Bob Hauser noted that the Pope Benedict XVI prayer cards that he purchased had disappeared quickly. He said someone had asked him about purchasing a specific Saint Cecilia card and he was trying to determine who supplies the Chapel area with prayer cards. Cyndi Volcko noted that Pat Mize has secured many prayer cards at little or no cost. Cyndi agreed to see if Pat would be willing to secure some more.

K. Perpetual Adoration.

Cyndi Volcko reported that plans are proceeding as reported last month.

L. Eucharistic Congress Trip.

The Eucharistic Congress will be June 15-22, 2008. Quebec City, Canada. Cyndi Volcko reported that there are no new developments.

M. Outdoor Banners.

Cyndi Volcko showed sketches of some possible graphics for Easter banners. The committee chose one showing the cross draped with a burial cloth. Cyndi will work further with the artist, to provide good visibility on a white background. Bill Haas asked that the graphic be put on both sides of the banners. Bob Hauser noted that the current Lenten banners have the crown of thorns on both sides. The use of green banners for ordinary time was also discussed, however, action regarding those was postponed for reasons of economy.

N. Father Haddad update.

Sue Stanton reported. Father Haddad is expected to confirm his plans this week. If he decides he can't come as planned, he will likely come in the fall. He's pretty heavily booked for the time he is expected to be with us, but Saturday evening is not filled yet. Father Nienhaus suggested that time might be used for an all-community forum, to be held here. He suggested inviting the entire Ames community and all the parishes in the deanery.

N. SoundTrack Concert – Sunday, March 25 at 7 pm in the Narthex

Bob Hauser reminded the committee of this concert.

O. Turning Off Unneeded Lighting.

Gary Aitchison noted that too often he finds lights burning full in spaces that are not being used. Father Nienhaus also reported that he is constantly turning lights off. Bob Hauser agreed to contact Marion Kresse to encourage the ushers to turn lights off after Mass.

P. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned with prayer at approximately 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Haas

Next Meeting: 7:00 pm Thursday, April 26, 2007