

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CLUSTER
LITURGY MEETING
APRIL 14, 2016
7:00 P.M.
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
FAYETTE, IOWA

Meeting opened with a prayer, To the Spirit of Light and Love led by Dee Youngblut, a song “Sing to the Mountains”, and the Gospel for Sunday the Fourth Sunday of Easter was read with discussion following. Pam agreed to lead the opening prayer at the next meeting.

Attendees: Marty Kraus (SF), Fr. Jim Brokman, Maureen Johnson (SP), Betty Alfultis (IC), Pam Rochford (IC), Jerry Engels (SF), Pat Burghardt (SF), Dee Youngblut (IC), Deb Matt (SP), Barb Heins (HN).

The meeting was led by Marty Kraus, chairperson this year.

Approval of Minutes

Deb moved and Betty seconded to approve the minutes from the March 3rd meeting.

Evaluations

Palm Sunday (3/20): Church was full at SP, Fr. Knepper was the celebrant at SF due to Fr. Jim leading the Year of Mercy Tour.

Year of Mercy Tour to Dubuque (3/20): This was well attended and generally considered well done.

Chrism Mass (3/22): Pam and Maureen attended this Mass in Dubuque this year. Both felt overall attendance was down. It might be a good experience to take a group of kids to this Mass.

Wednesday of Holy Week Mass at SF (3/23): Attendance by students pretty light. If this Mass is intended to be for CCD kids we may need to rethink this.

Holy Thursday (3/24): Potlucks went well. More people attended at HN this year than last year. It was wonderful to have Josie there lending her talents to the music at HN.

Good Friday (3/25): Traditional Good Friday services at IC and HN pretty typical attendance – 40 to 50 at IC and close to 100 at HN.

Tenebrae (3/25): Attendance was down this year. Could this have been because Iowa State was playing basketball on TV that night? Fr. Jim suggested that we try to involve the Valley Ministerial Association churches next year. Pastor Mee Kang, pastor of the Methodist churches in Fayette and Elgin, is working hard to bring the churches together for services.

Easter Vigil (3/26): Went well with a good crowd. Ran out of candles for the people. It was thought we were easily 25 or so candles short. The RCIA program and candidates for Baptism, Confirmation and Acceptance into the Church helps bring people to this service and also makes it more meaningful. Some discussion on the RCIA program being a bit too disconnected from the parishes in the Cluster as some were unaware of people from their parish being a part of this group.

Easter (3/27): Good crowds at all the churches. IC was treated to a good choir that morning.

Divine Mercy Sunday (4/03): IC had violin players supply music for the Mass and the Divine Mercy Chaplet was prayed. IC has been praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet every 2nd weekend of the month during this the Year of Mercy. Some discussion on praying this devotional in the other parishes. HN very devoted to recitation of the Rosary.

Upcoming Liturgies

Cluster First Communion (5/01): This will be at SF at 2:00 p.m. Songs picked: Entrance: “Gather Your People”; Presentation of the Gifts: “Only a Shadow”; Communion: “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”; Closing: “At the Lamb’s High Feast”. Service music will be Mass of Christ the Savior. Also talked about doing “Jesus Bread of Life” as a Communion meditation hymn. The

Communion and Closing hymns will be subject to the musicians and choir being able to practice them enough, they are not songs that are normally done at SF or SP.

Servers will be provided by SF as this works best, they know how Mass is offered in their parish. Pat will line up servers. Between Pat and Pam they will line up lectors and ushers and liturgical ministers for Communion. Pictures will be done after Mass as that seems to work better.

Ascension of the Lord/Mother's Day/May Crowning (5/08): This will also be the day the First Communicants will be presented in their individual parishes. Discussion about presenting the kids the weekend before First Communion because of the following week being Mother's Day. SP will be recognizing their kids on 4/24 with a special blessing to send them off to their First Communion weekend. This practice may be promising for future handling of this important celebration.

May Crowning is done at IC, HN and SP. Has not been a tradition at SF. It will be up to Holly Streeter if they will do May Crowning, it is an optional observance.

Pentecost/Senior Breakfast (5/15): The Senior Breakfast is a tradition at IC, SP and HN. SF may do something different to recognize their graduates as they have a small class this year.

Other Business

- Fr. Jim was asked if it is proper to take down the cross with the cloth drape before Pentecost or after. In his opinion, it can be handled either way.
- Discussion of where the Cluster is at with Music Ministry. We need to find more ways to encourage more participation as it seems there are people in the pews who would get involved if they were asked. Also discussed finding ways to spread around what we already have for Music Ministry without over-taxing those who are so dedicated.

Next Meeting

T.B.A. Possibly late July or early August.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with a Hail Mary.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maureen Johnson