

## DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSION: Extraordinary Session

Minutes: 3/11/15

Members Present: Ms. Gale Francione, Dc. David Krob, Ms. Patti McTaggart, Ms. Tammy Norcross

Members Absent: Fr. Jeff Belger, Fr. Bruce DeRammelaere, Sr. Joann Kuebrich, Fr. Bernie Weir

*Ex officio*: Dc. Frank Agnoli

From the Diocese: Bishop Martin Amos, Ms. Char Maaske, Ms. Colleen Tague

From St. Anthony Parish: Fr. Apo Mpanda, Kim Noftsker, Steve Vanderlinden

Meeting opened with the diocesan prayer at 1:35pm.

### State of the Current Organ

Organ (Stanke, 1940s) not working properly, problems with console, wiring (cotton cloth) frayed and making contact with other wires. Clearly needs to be replaced; restoration is not an option.

Discussed the issue of possible fire hazard with current instrument. According to the parish, it is safe to use for short periods of time – but cannot be left on. Additionally, even if ordered today, a new organ would not be ready until December 2016 at the earliest.

Need to have fire marshal or electrician give a formal opinion regarding safety of the current instrument.

### Process for Purchasing New Organ

Mechanical action (tracker) organ is now being considered; have greater longevity than electric action organs (such as the current one) as long as appropriately maintained. In long term, this is the most cost-effective option, though the initial expense is higher.

Had considered a “used” organ – but decided against this approach.

Bids submitted by three companies (all submitted to DLC and reviewed)

Of the three bids, most cost-effective from Noack. The company has been very responsive in the past and enjoy a good reputation.

Noack gave a “bare-bones” bid of \$290,000. Parish requested additional pipes, bringing new total to \$372,000. Organists agree that this is sufficient; can add an additional rank of pipes (prepare chest in anticipation). Finance committee and parish council have approved the project.

Discussed structural integrity of the loft; organ technicians have stated that weight is not an issue.

Discussed importance of climate-control, including humidifier.

Some concerns voiced re: less than full number of keys and pedals – won’t be able to reach extreme highs and lows. Parish is convinced that with usual repertoire this is not an issue. Question of “temperament” also raised: recommended well-tempered (not equal/even-tempered); this can be decided later.

### Plans for Financing

Parish has \$375,000 accessible in parish funds (investments / parish building maintenance fund); however, need to respect donor intention – if given specifically for building maintenance, cannot use for organ. They plan on creating an ‘organ fund’ (restricted gifts); help with costs / replenish maintenance fund. Overall, they have a total of \$3M in assets.

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### Questions / Concerns

1. Cost for ongoing maintenance. Contract \$1000-1500/year.
2. Catechesis / encouraging congregational singing. Beware that organ/choir can promote passivity if not careful. Have 12-18 month window that can be used for intentional preparation and catechesis for greater participation.
3. Preparation of site / electrician – what is additional cost? Can be dismantled by parish staff. Need electrician to rewire. Perhaps \$1000. Pipes are tin and lead, plus copper in wire – can be salvaged. Perhaps use keys/stops as some memorabilia / fundraising reward.
4. Future use: what happens as the parish ages / decreases in number and fewer and fewer organists are available? In other words, is this a sustainable investment? The parish is convinced that it is. That being said, the parish needs to understand that it is committing to long-term expenses beyond just the organ: maintenance, keeping an organist on staff, etc.

### Recommendations / Observations

The liturgical commission recommends the following:

1. The current instrument needs a formal inspection by a qualified individual (electrician, fire marshal) to determine if it is safe to use on even a limited basis or if it is such a fire hazard that it should be disconnected and no longer used. The report must be completed in the next 30 days and be submitted to the Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese (Char Maaske) with a copy to the Office of Liturgy. The CFO should be contacted if the report will be delayed beyond 30 days.
2. The parish is strongly urged to use this opportunity to engage in a program of intentional catechesis of the assembly in the liturgy and liturgical music, in order to promote the full, conscious, and active participation of all in the liturgy. Concern has been raised that while a healthy music program ought to promote the development of music ministry (choirs, instrumentalists, cantors), such cannot be done at the expense of creating (or maintaining) a passive assembly. The Diocesan Liturgical Commission and Office of Liturgy are available to assist in the catechetical effort.
3. The parish also needs to be made aware that by purchasing such an instrument it is committing itself to long-term expenses, including a maintenance program and keeping a qualified organist on staff. There is more here than a one-time expense.
4. The parish is reminded that funds collected for an express purpose (restricted donations) cannot be used for other reasons. So, if a “building maintenance fund” was established specifically for the maintenance of the parish buildings and grounds, and funds were solicited with that specific end in mind, then those funds cannot be used for the purchase of a new organ (a capital expense).
5. If the above are attended to, the Diocesan Liturgical Commission recommends that the project proceed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dc. Francis L. Agnoli

Director of Liturgy

Chair, Liturgical Commission