

DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSION

Minutes: 08/20/20

Present: Ms. Colleen Darland, Ms. Gale Francione, Ms. Patti McTaggart, Ms. Kay Temple, Fr. Bernie Weir

Absent: Fr. Jeff Belger, Fr. Bruce DeRammelaere, Ms. Tammy Norcross-Reitzler

Ex Officio: Deacon Frank Agnoli

1. Opening Prayer (after checking in)
2. Approve 12/13/19 minutes
3. New Business
 - a. The bishops of our province are beginning to discuss what to do regarding catechesis about Sunday Eucharist and the "Sunday obligation" once we are able to return to 'normal' Sunday worship. Specifically, how might we encourage parishioners who have grown used to celebrating virtually or at home or not at all to see the value of and return to Sunday Eucharist at the parish?

One of the trends noticed is that daily Mass numbers are higher – especially virtually. Do we stop doing virtual / recorded? There are about 2x the number who watch later during the day. They have people from 4 different countries watching – Guatemalans, Salvadorans, Hondurans, Mexicans – who are being served by the weekend Spanish Mass.

More people are coming to daily Mass to avoid larger crowds. As an interim step, can the Sunday obligation be commuted to a weekday obligation (smaller crowds)? That kind of initial flexibility may open hearts.

What is the nature of time in the liturgy? Watching a Mass later vs. concurrently? What are the short- and long-term implications of that?

Some of the parishes in DM (ex: Sacred Heart) are looking at a program called "The Search" (from the Augustine Institute) – an outreach to parishioners who have not been engaged. <https://sacredheartwdm.org/the-search>

Should we be collecting data from parishes re: engagement (in-person, virtual attendance, not going, etc.); part of the problem with virtual liturgy is passive engagement. What are people who are engaged virtually looking for – as far as engagement now, and in the future? Should we have a 'virtual' gathering of laypersons to ask these questions? Survey?

One of the ways to engage those attending virtually is to pause to allow for responses... and to allow enough time at communion for spiritual communion / prayer. Encourage people to take on the postures (ex: inviting people to stand for the gospel).

4. Continuing Business
 - a. Liturgical Formation
 - i. Survey done. When moved to virtual space, asked if there was interest for formation opportunities. Did not get positive response.
 - ii. Office will continue to advertise on-line offerings from other sources.
 - b. Reclaiming / Restoring / Rediscovering Sunday (see above)
 - c. Priorities / goals – ongoing (see above)
5. Next meeting / prayer leader
 - a. September 17th, 2020 – 10AM – Via ZOOM
 - b. TBD

Respectfully submitted,
Deacon Frank Agnoli, Chair