

DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSION

Minutes: 09/17/20

Present: Fr. Jeff Belger, Ms. Colleen Darland, Fr. Bruce DeRammelaere, Ms. Gale Francione, Ms. Patti McTaggart, Ms. Tammy Norcross-Reitzler, Ms. Kay Temple, Fr. Bernie Weir

Guests: Ms. Rosina Hendrickson, Fr. Thom Hennen

Ex Officio: Deacon Frank Agnoli

1. Opening Prayer (after checking in / introductions)
2. Approve 8/20/20 minutes
3. Continuing 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?

In looking ahead to the transition back to more regular in-person parish life, there was a strong sense in our discussion that we shouldn’t (and really can’t) go back to what was “normal” before the pandemic. We were also hesitant about the phrase “new normal” – as if we have a set destination in mind. Better to think of this in terms of a journey... realizing that what will eventually become our ‘routine’ will take time to take shape.

In the meantime, we need to ask: What are we learning from being away from each other? What meaning will we take with us as we return / make this transition or journey into what will be? What lessons will we incorporate? What are people missing (and why)? We need to be intentional and not just fall into old habits.

Members discussed ideas regarding parish community and hospitality, liturgy and prayer, catechesis, and outreach/service (evangelization). It was noted that inviting Catholics back to parish life after the pandemic (and the dispensation from the Sunday obligation is lifted) fits well within the Diocese’s Vision 2020 initiative (including the question of how to ‘recover’ a sense of Sunday as the Lord’s Day).

4. New Business
 - a. Music in the liturgy.

In response to a letter from a music minister, members affirmed that music is a normative part of Catholic liturgy, but these are not normal times (and there is not a ‘complete’ ban on music as the writer states). Sound liturgical principles need to be upheld. At the same time, the “state of the science” needs to be reviewed before any changes to current practice are proposed, especially given that (a) time spent in a common space remains an issue and (b) there is uncontrolled spread of the virus in the community.

5. Next meeting / prayer leader
 - a. October 15, 2020 – 10AM – Via ZOOM
 - b. Patti and Fr. Jeff

Respectfully submitted,

Deacon Frank Agnoli
Chair