Worship Commission Meeting December 17, 2014

Attendance: Fr. David Mowry, Tom Kaiser, Mary Pat Vanderlaan, Jim Viola, Dave McCaffrey, George Loss, Lucy Milar.

Faith Sharing: We read Psalm 71 – My mouth shall be filled with your praise, and I will sing your glory! We also read Luke Chapter 1 – how Zechariah was visited by the angel of the Lord as he was incensing the altar, and how he became unable to speak. Elizabeth conceived. We spoke of the importance of silence and hearing the word of God and believing and trusting in God’s plan for each of us.

Minutes: November minutes approved.

Parish Council: No report out.

Christmas Final Review: Dave M. had provided a plan and suggestions for recruitment of additional volunteers to help direct traffic for the overflow Mass at 3:00 PM (there will be three 3:00 Masses again). The Worship Commission has not been asked for help or advice, so we will await further request for help.

Daily Mass and Holy Day Mass times: We discussed some past problems with the 7:30 Mass and traffic flow when children are being dropped off. We have three Masses daily (6:15 – to accommodate commuters in particular; 7:30; and 8:15). IC had the ability to celebrate 3 Masses more easily when we had three priests. Now that there are two priests, we discussed options for eliminating one of the Masses and are recommending that the 7:30 daily Mass be dropped, and the 6:15 and 8:15 be continued. However, Father David will consult with Father Tom because this will result in greater traffic at the 8:15 Mass, and there is no parking on Arthur Street after 8:00 AM.

On Holy Days, we have traditionally had a Mass of Anticipation at 5:15 PM; and Masses at 6:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 8:15 AM, 9:40 AM and 7:00 PM. We are recommending eliminating the 7:30 AM Holy Day Mass.

Coordination of Baptism Host and Wedding Host Ministries: Within the last several months, a new wedding host ministry was formed at IC. People help with logistics for the rehearsal and on the day of wedding. There are already two parishioners who have volunteered to help. There is also a new ministry to assist with Baptisms – they help direct where to sit and are available the day of the Baptism. Both of these ministries are currently under the lead of Faith Formation. Father Tom asked the the Worship Commission consider taking this on. We need to consider whether we need to assign a coordinator, similarly to our other coordinator roles. Sharon I (last name?) is on both and was also recently asked to be on the Parish Council. Linda G. currently puts together the Baptism certificates, etc. Dave suggested this could be managed in the electronic ministry sign up system (MSP). This is different than Wedding preparation and Baptism preparation, which will still be managed as current. It is more like a “sacristan” role to help with logistics. We discussed that it would be optimum if these persons were Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers, and that we could market this to the current EMs. Dave will talk to Maria about incorporating this into the MSP system. Father David will talk to Maria and others to consider whether there needs to be someone on WC to be coordinator. We suggested we see how this pans out, and reconsider as needed.

Eucharistic Minister Procedure for persons with Pyx: There have been a few difficult encounters relating to the new “Pyx process” instituted by Bishop Conlon. Father Tom has instituted this process where the person who will be receiving the Eucharist in a Pyx for distribution to the homebound/hospitalized brings the Pyx up before Mass and receives it directly from Father, with a special blessing, before the final blessing. There were two situations that arose: the first where someone unfamiliar with the new process came up during Communion and requested two hosts be placed in the Pyx. The Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister placed the hosts in the Pyx. This was a great concern to Father Tom because of the new process, which is intended to ensure that only persons who are known to have a legitimate role receive the Eucharist for further distribution. The second situation occurred at another Parish in Elmhurst where the Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister was not “welcomed” to receive the Eucharist because she is not from that Parish. We discussed the reality that the Bishop wants this implemented and that Father Tom as the Dean of Northeast DuPage county Deanery can bring this up with the Priests. We recommended that there be additional instructions given to the IC EMs about how to deal with awkward situations such as the above. Is there room within the new policy/procedure to account from special circumstances? There was discussion about whether persons should be made to carry documentation that they are authorized to receive Communion for distribution outside of the church building – but we discouraged this as an option. Father David will develop instructions and Peg can send out. Father David will also talk to Father Tom about whether he may want to provide additional instruction to all the Priests in the Deanery. We closed out this discussion by recognizing that this is not a trivial matter, but that it involves the most sacred of our beliefs as Catholics, and thus can evoke strong reactions.

Year of Family: Subgroup did not meet as planned due to the business of December. Dave McCaffrey will do a very short article for the January 4th bulletin. We missed the other deadlines, including the Feast of the Holy Family and the Feast of the Solemnity of Mary to do articles. Father David intends to write an article for the January electronic newsletter.

Miscellaneous: Lucy expressed concern about whether the Parish and WC should be doing something about the Year of the Ordained. She suggested maybe we do a Eucharistic Adoration service. We had a discussion about this in November, and Father David agreed to follow up with Lucy after the meeting.

Ecumenical Service – Worship Commission is not planning this. We are not certain if it will happen this year.

Father David gave us a very special blessing. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Next WC meeting is scheduled for January 19 at 7:00 PM. Will we need to switch the meeting date due to the MLK holiday?