

Liturgy Committee Meeting
Church of Saint Mary, Alexandria
Thursday, May 9, 2023
6:30 p.m.

Present: Luke VanOverbeke, Father Matthew, Father Rick, Father Fred, Bonnie Broman, Janice Doebber, Carol Gaffaney, Kevin Gorghuber, Mary Gorghuber, Jody Koubsky, Grace Lambert, Michele Neale, Deacon Tony Pasko, Dave Reller, Erin Takle and Bill Verschaetse. Absent: Char Hanson and Sue McCulloch.

1. The meeting began with a prayer retreat in the church, followed by a meal in the parish office conference room.
2. Minutes of Last Meeting – The minutes of the April 20, 2023 meeting were approved with a change in the last sentence of the fifth bullet under the Liturgist’s Update: Delete this sentence “There was no consensus.” and replace with “Further discussion will take place.”
3. Liturgy Committee Education Session & Discussion
 - Mary Gorghuber shared a synopsis of paragraphs 1-5 of the Desiderio Desideravi. She noted that the title, Desiderio Desideravi, comes from the Latin version “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer” from Luke 22:15, spoken by Jesus to the Apostles at the Last Supper. The Desiderio Desideravi contains reflections from Pope Francis on the liturgy; this is not doctrine. These reflections can assist us while pondering the beauty and truth of our Mass - the liturgy.
 - Discussion followed. Several people felt the committee should continue to meet during the summer months in an informal setting to continue with education and discussion. It was decided that the next meeting would be held June 8th at 6:30 p.m. The summer meetings will be informal, used for education/discussion, and other topics will only be brought up if they are of an emergency nature.
 - Kevin Gorghuber volunteered to teach paragraphs 6-9 at the next meeting.
4. Liturgist’s Updates
 - Looking back at this year and what has been accomplished:
 - Developed a covenant for the Liturgy Committee to define what we are
 - Christmas planning
 - Holy Week planning
 - Working on how we do education
 - Discussion on future plans, action items, etc. Various suggestions were reviewed.
 - When a project or action item is undertaken, a person should be named to be in charge of seeing it through, responsible for organizing assistance, planning, etc.
 - Suggestion to have a brainstorming session to discuss areas/projects we want to do.
 - Baptisms by the Holy Water Font – Father will look into having a camera set up that will give a better view of baptisms for those watching on the screens in church.
 - Hospitality needs – There continues to be a feeling that greeters should be a separate ministry, not combined within the Hospitality teams. Grace Lambert will chair a sub-committee to work on this.
 - Parking for handicapped at large events – As noted last month, some people are hesitant to attend large events at St. Mary’s Church because of the difficulty of finding parking spaces for those who need handicapped parking. It was felt that the

parish office parking lot could be used solely for handicapped parking when there is an ACC church event. Signage, communication and personnel will be needed. Bill Verschaetse will chair a sub-committee to work on this.

- The Diocesan Rural Life Celebration will be held at the Church of St. Nicholas in Belle River on August 20th, beginning with a 10:30 mass. The organizers, Gary and Veronica Haavig, need many volunteers to make this a successful event. There are many ways in which you can help them, from fundraising, finding sponsoring businesses, tables, chairs, tents, etc. It was suggested that those on the Liturgy Committee should contact them to offer their assistance.

5. Next Meeting (an informal education-only meeting):

- Thursday, June 8th at 6:30 p.m.

6. The closing prayer was led by Luke.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Carol Gaffaney