

- **Meeting held March 19, 2014 at 7:15 p.m.**
- **Attendees:** Darryl Dubs, Jennifer Hartmann; Jessie De Giorgio, Darwin Wolf, Catherine De Giorgio; Joyce Van Zee Pat Ordalen and guest Lance Nielsen
- **Next meeting: Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 p.m.**
- Opening Prayer by Pat Ordalen in honor of the Solemnity of St. Joseph, spouse of the BVM

### **Agenda provided by Darryl Dubs:**

1. **Meeting Length – we all agreed to keep meetings limited to 1.5 hrs.** (tonight ended up going until 9:15 p.m.)
2. **Embroidery on Palm Sunday/Pentecost Ambo Cloth:** Dove descending down with brown cross was chosen. Jennifer is working w/ Lynn Zwak (not a parishioner) who does embroidery by machine/computer and pending an e-mail of sample, it will be created for both of these occasions and will be done by 4/12/2014 (Palm Sunday). We can make the designs whatever size we need for visibility. Jennifer is waiting for samples to sign off.
3. Darwin provided a handout w/information he wrote concerning a Narthex and entry way in a church: specifically focusing on Nave and Phase I Gathering Space. Our space was to be temporary and widen by removing kitchen and offices and sacristy. However, this has changed since the original plans and we are now limited to what we have and need to make better use of the space to keep people for fellowship.
4. Darryl Introduced Lance Nielsen (parishioner) who was just hired by our parish to work with our Young Adult Ministry and with the Liturgy Committee regarding our Gathering Space. Fr. Joe gave Lance the book Rebuilt and additional copies are on order for our committee. We want to focus on helping to inspire and keep our young people (roughly ages 21-39) coming to Mass. It's a challenge and we cannot touch the sacredness of the Mass. But, we want to look into upgrading our Gathering Space as we know we have budget and space issues and will not be expanding at this time as originally planned. Where can we serve best to keep people coming to Mass? Demographics of our parish show that those ages 21-39 comprise the largest percentage of our parish population. There's not just one reason why people leave our parish or the Catholic Church. So, we want to focus on things we can address with total focus to being "open to the more." "What more is there?" We will focus on Gathering Space and try to make it feel more updated and inviting—a place people want to gather, hang out and stay. Lance will work with us and our parish regarding what we care about. "It's a Catholic Church, it's our identity". "Let's give it a try and not make any changes permanent until we all agree." Mission & Vision: "We want them to hang out, sit down, make it inviting, sit in fellowship and chat with each other." Timing is a challenge to get people on board. Lance is to get us excited and to develop a focal point. With permission, he asked us if it was OK to resume meeting in the Gathering Space so he could share ideas and get our thoughts. We left the meeting room and continued in Gathering Space, ending our meeting there.
5. Lance said "God guides and God provides." Right now we have to pursue our goals with no budget in mind. We need to be open to anything for now and keep in mind our Church environment. Fr. Joe joined us about half way these discussions.

**Suggestions from Lance:** Try to bring people out of the Nave and into the Gathering Space with better flow away from the center and over to the west side of space. Keep them interested enough to draw them into staying and gathering in fellowship (no definitive decisions to be made tonight, only suggestions discussed).

- **Build a platform** in the far right corner to the left of Sacristy door by windows for a leader of a meeting with rows of chairs fanning out from there. Make it all portable with microphone and TV on wall for DVDs.
- **Remove mismatched bookcases** and replace with a coffee counter in addition to what we have at the kitchen window so people can move over to this section after Mass to socialize. But, still keeping window available for the kids and the snacks.

- **Sell the white wall unit** to raise money for the project as it's taking up space where we could replace with another flat screen TV for upcoming events and use that section as an Information Center for parish meetings, events, etc.
  - Have the Mass showing on one of the flat screen TVs for those parents who take their children to the Gathering Space as it's hard to see the priest from that distance even with all the glass windows.
- **Let's get more technology:** We have too much stuff blocking Gathering Space. Clear out and create a reason to move into the Gathering Space rather than straight out the doors. Do not block entrance w/ the long tables, relocation of sign-ups, events, etc. to the Information Center.
- **Keep the sign-up sheet table** near the entrance to the Parish Office.
- **Condition people** to look at the TV screens.
- Have Fr. Joe position himself on the side to get people over this way. However, we all (especially Fr. Joe), felt people will bypass him and go out, so he prefers and we agreed to have him stay by the doors to be open to welcome and say goodbye.
- We need to keep the Gathering Space clear of tables which block people now from going anywhere other than straight out for the most part or to the left for coffee/snacks.
- **Reposition St. Katharine Drexel statue** for better view and as we have duplication of iconography of patron saint with large painting over the Nave doors. Remove framed photos on table to right of Nave to office or classrooms.
- **Represent everyone in the best way possible.**
- **Data is available** to support what works. Use as a calling card.
- **Chant music is the new wave for Catholic Church, let's investigate.**
- **"If we're fishing, let's use the right bait".**
- **Better merchandizing** of the Bibles and Catechisms, so they are seen and people are drawn to them to purchase. Now they are laying down, no focus on them and you don't see them unless you are brought over to them. Do we need shelving, bookcases, etc. , but keep it portable for the most part.
- **Add color** to the Gathering Space only, wall paint etc. Are 3 TV's too much for a Catholic Church? We all agreed right now that two would be better and to not put anything on the wall facing the Nave. Keep the glass windows clear and separate from clutter.
- **Keep space liquid/moveable** and flowing so we can break down for Christmas and other events.
- Keep liability in mind with the corner platform—it's a concern with small children. Maybe we can break it down but then do we have storage issue? Maybe we can fold up to attach to wall. Look at options.
- Darwin suggested we paint pillars cream color to match Nave and they will be less noticeable. Also the arch around the entrance to Nave, same cream color to create more light and focus on entrance.
- **Limit tables in the Gathering Space to three** and obtain newer tables with legs that fold under quickly. Don't use the round ones we have without the fold-up legs.
- **Consider newer chairs that have color.** Maybe we could spray paint what we have??
- **Let's consider each thing as to function.**
- We need to have a vision to pursue and will discuss at our next meeting.
- **Timing is ASAP**, no funding from our parish, but Lance needed our agreement on basic concept to pursue so he can start talking w/people who may donate.
- Per Fr. Joe, we must inform the Parish Council.
- We agreed that **kitchen window will remain open** for kids for cookies etc. in addition to coffee counter in the Gathering Space mostly for adults.

Lance thanked us for allowing him to join us and share ideas and asked for any major objections: storage concerns, liability w/platform, move some storage cabinets to the long hallway toward rest rooms, does that meet fire codes. We all agreed to continue and to pursue at our next meeting.

**Next Project or Focus:**

1. *Further discussion on the aforementioned upgrade to our Gathering Space and time is limited so we're meeting earlier in the month of April.*

**Meeting adjourned around 9:15 p.m.**

**Altar Cloth Color Update as of today:**

- Red for Palm Sunday/Pentecost: pending

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Respectfully submitted by Jessie De Giorgio      March 25, 2014