

Notes from Liturgical Minister Meeting 7/8/2010 @ 7PM

Thank you for all who attended the workshop last night. I said that I would share the discussion we had last night as a follow-up and to ensure that all who did not attend are up to speed. I have attached my notes from the intro.

As lay ministers in the Church, we, by default are leaders, examples and mentors in serving all of the parishioners of St. Peter the Apostle and the universal Church. You and your ministry are important to this community and my prayer is that we can work together to grow and mature in our faith as we serve this faith community. We all know that saying "it takes a village to raise a child", it also takes a village to raise a child/adult spiritually. You are not just volunteers at Mass, but lay ministers with a responsibility "for the Church's being and action". (Pope Benedict)

Church Information

1. More than 40 years ago the Church went through some profound changes with Second Vatican II (1965) as it relates to lay ministry in the church. In the Document *Lumen Gentium* it states that "Sharing in the function of Christ, priest, prophet and king, the laity have an active part of their own in the life and activity of the Church." (*Lumen Gentium* means Dogmatic Constitution of the Church)
2. This is reiterated in the document "Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord" by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops in 2005. (Develop Lay Ecclesial Ministers "paid positions" but I view this as everyone who is in any type of ministry in the parish. You all are examples of living your faith.)
 - a. It restates that "Through Baptism we put on Christ and become members of his Body. We are initiated into the Christian community and called to a holiness of life in the world befitting disciples of Jesus Baptism initiates all into the one priesthood of Christ, giving each of the baptized, in different ways, a share in his priestly, prophetic, and kingly work.
 - b. And so every one of the baptized, confirmed in faith through the gifts of God's Spirit according to his or her calling, is incorporated into the fullness of Christ's mission to celebrate, proclaim, and serve the reign of God."
 - c. It also states that "Discipleship is the fundamental vocation in which the Church's mission and ministry find full meaning. The call to discipleship is, first of all, a gift." All ministry is relational.
3. In May 2009, during the opening of the Pastoral Convention of the Diocese of Rome, the Pope gave a homily about "Church Membership and Pastoral Co-Responsibility. The Pope said too many of the baptized do not feel part of the ecclesial community and live on its margins; only coming to parishes in certain circumstances to receive religious services What paths can we take? In the first place we must renew our efforts for a formation which is more attentive and focused on the vision of the Church, of which I spoke and this should be both on the part of priest as well as of religious and lay people to understand ever better what this Church is, this People of God in the Body of Christ. At the same time, it is necessary to improve pastoral structures in such a way that the co-responsibility of all the members of the People of God in their entirety is gradually promoted, with respect for vocations and for the respective roles of the consecrated of the lay people. They must

no longer be viewed as “collaborators” of the clergy but truly recognized as “co-responsible” for the Church’s being and action, thereby fostering the consolidation of a mature and committed laity. **This is huge! We all take an active role in the action of the church!**

Call to Ministry/Discipleship

You have all heard the call to be involved in ministry within in the Church. Since I am new, I want to make sure that you are receiving the formation necessary to continue in your ministry. In the document Co-Workers four areas of formation are discussed – human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral.

- ✓ **Human qualities** critical to form wholesome relationships and necessary to be apt instruments of God’s love and compassion.
- ✓ A **spirituality and practice of prayer** that root them in God’s Trinitarian life, grounding and animating all they do in ministry.
- ✓ Adequate **knowledge in theological** and pastoral studies, along with the intellectual skill to use it among the people and cultures of our country.
- ✓ The practical **pastoral abilities** called for in their particular ministry.

In the Pope’s homily he also places the responsibility on the parishes to nurture the spiritual and apostolic growth of those who are committed to working hard in the parishes. This also means that each of us have to make a personal commitment to our faith development and also be willing to do that personal reflection, attend a bible study, etc. With all this said, I would like you to help me answer the following questions:

- a. what formation you are looking for
- b. how often you would like me to offer formational opportunities (times per year)
- c. how I can help you in your ministry
- d. Time for discussion on formation

I hope this summarizes the discussion:

1. Spiritual formation seems to be important, i.e. evenings of reflection, pray together, etc.
2. Intellectual (Theological) formation also was brought up as well.
3. I will put together a couple of evenings of reflection in the fall and spring that will combine both spiritual and theological together.
4. You may have noticed in the Bulletin there is a section called “Living Liturgy” which will cover different aspects of our traditions, rituals, etc. to help explain why we do some of the things we do and other tidbits of information. I hope these are helpful to spark your understanding of the rituals and traditions that are so rich in our faith.
5. The Cantor greetings that are said at the beginning of Mass are a reflection of what the scriptures are about.
6. Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist-A couple of things have surfaced since our meeting Thursday is about the clean-up after Mass. This should not take very long since Fr. Slawek is very diligent in purifying the sacred vessels. You do not have to wash the vessels after his Mass. We all know that Fr. John's eyesight is not the best, so if you notice that the cups have not been purified you can put some water into the cup to finish purifying the Precious Blood in the cup...either

- consume the water or put it into the sacrarium. If you see any crumbs in the ciborium after Fr. John's Mass, you can use the same process, but normally, once the priest purifies the vessels, there is no need to re-wash them. So clean up should be easy.
7. Also, it is the responsibility of the Altar Servers to clear the altar after Mass, not the Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. This has not changed.
 8. Here is a website for lector preparation to help you understand the readings in more detail from a historical perspective, liturgical setting and other information. Understanding what you are proclaiming and also help with your own person growth as a minister. <http://lectorprep.org/index.html>
 9. There are CD's available in the back of Church that talk about the Mass and other traditions of our faith. These might be a good starting point for your personal formation and growth.
 10. There are a few formational opportunities that will be offered starting in the fall as it relates to the Eucharist and also a session twice a month related to scripture and praying. Still working through other resources for other opportunities in the parish. These are also great opportunities for you to grow personally in your understanding of your faith and the Church.
 11. I would like to create a committee to help discuss, plan and facilitate Adult Formation opportunities. If you are interested, please let me know.
 12. Starting in September, I am implementing a Liturgy Planning Committee that will incorporate all aspects of Liturgy (Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, Music, Art & Environment). This committee will work together as disciples to ensure that we, as liturgical ministers, are doing all that we can do during the liturgy to help everyone experience Jesus that will transform us, move us to grow and mature as a faith community.

I hope that you all have read through the instructions passed out last week. There are extra copies in the sacristy for those who did not attend the meetings. If you have any questions, please call me on 630-773-1272 ext. 201 or email me. Thank you and I will see at Church. Have a great summer (what is left of it).

Carol Schubert