

St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting
Minutes of April 26, 2011

Attendees: Fr. Francis Li, Anne Choate, Joseph Kung, Rose Lau, George Lee,
John Lin, Raymond Lin, Sheila Lin, Lily May, Larry Wong, Jade Yee

Opening Prayer by Fr. Li.

Lent Evaluation:

What went well?

- Field services at St. James Food Pantry – 36+ parishioners in all participated over 2 visits. A good experience. (Needed: Cantonese and/or Mandarin-speaking people to act as translators).
- Presentation on St. Therese - O.K. for this year. Form of Lenten retreat (a day of Retreat/Reflection) next year to be determined.
- Gregorian chant music before Mass helped people pray.

What needs improvement?

- Liturgy Committee should meet earlier next year to start the preparation for Lent on theme selection, music, field service project planning, retreat planning, etc.
- Parish Reconciliation service on 4/16/11 - very few attended. Reasons: parishioners in general do not do confessions. Some were also not aware of this service.
- Stations of the Cross and fish fry: attendance lower than previous years. The exclusively Chinese menu may have affected attendance. Some people thought fish fry is a fundraiser (which is not). We will address these issues next year.
- Rice Bowl project did not get much response. Most parishioners thought the project was for the CCD children. We will communicate better next time.
- Announcements in church on the various Lenten activities were not conveyed effectively. We need to work on communication skills and equipment (microphone).

Suggestions of activities to consider doing both during and beyond Lent:

- Parish reconciliation service once a quarter, or twice a year, e.g. during Advent and Lent. Purpose: to raise awareness among parishioners of the need for the sacrament of reconciliation.
- With some regularity: Eucharistic adoration, Benediction, and Rosary. (frequency to be discussed)

Holy Week Evaluation:

What went well?

- Attendance on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday were good vs. prior years.
- Decoration - good, not overdone.
- Good team efforts on church cleaning and decoration for the Holy Week. New people helped with decorations.

- Holy Thursday – the hand-washing went very well. Many people participated in the ritual.
- Good Friday – very moving liturgy.
- Easter Vigil – reading in the dark was a new and good experience for most – people listened to the scriptures. Good reader.
- Choir did a great job. Good to have a few new members.
- Having the Neophytes read on Easter Sunday was nice. – we should make it a point to find ways to proactively involve them for one year after each year’s baptism.

What needs improvement?

- Liturgy planning should take place at least 2 weeks before Palm Sunday with all members attending doing a walk-through of the order of service document.
- Consider preparing a worship aid for each of the Masses during the Holy Week – better coordination between Father and choir needed.
- Easter Vigil – Choir needs more lighting during reading (in the dark).
- Better planning on flowers (quality and quantity).
- All candles should be lit from the fire/other candles – not from a lighter.

Easter Collection;

- As of 4/28/11 (updated after the PPC meeting): \$14,941 (last year total: \$11,799). Very good result in light of the economy.

Planning:

Cantonese Mass and “Farewell & Thank YOU” to Fr. Nick?

- Fr. Nick will graduate in May and we don’t know what/where his next assignment is. It may not be in Chicago - John Lin to advise.
- Cantonese Mass on May 1st by Fr. Nick could be his last one here.
- We want to host a “Farewell and Thank You” for Fr. Nick before he leaves Chicago. – John Lin to advise if and when.
- For discussion at the 5/18/11 PPC meeting: Evaluate the need for Cantonese Mass and decide how to proceed.

“Thank YOU” to the Mullins - May 8th

- Family relocating to Boise, Idaho.
- Party on May 8 – lunch in the Community Room.
- Gift of church/parish photo collage being prepared by Kien Chai.

SMI May Crowning on May 1st at 11:30am

- We need to clear the Community Room by noon to allow room preparation (by SMI staff) for the feast after the Crowning service.

Catechists Award on May 10th (Tuesday) by the Archdiocese

- 3 are nominated from our parish: George Mullin, Dorothy Bisch, & Roberto Costa.
- The award event will be held at Drury Lane at Oakbrook - details to follow. Parish will buy a table.

First Communion on May 15th at the 9:30am Mass

- We are responsible for church decoration and music.
- Steve Cottam will prepare a Worship Aid. Lily May to coordinate with Steve on music.
- Children will make a banner for the altar.
- Debbie Oi and Ellen Andriacchi are in charge of Reception after the Mass.

Fr. Duan's "First Mass" on May 22nd, 11am, Mandarin Mass

- Fr. Duan will be ordained on Saturday, May 21st at Techny.
- We will host the Reception after his First Mass (the 11am Mandarin Mass) on May 22nd.
- Anne Choate offered to make the cake for the reception.
- Menu for the reception to be determined (Joseph Kung to follow up with Fr. Li).

Confirmation – June 4, Saturday, 5pm Mass

- 6 candidates to be confirmed by Bishop Kane
- Needs to address music (Lily out-of-town) – Lily to arrange and coordinate with School.

International Cuisine Day – June 12, Sunday, lunch in Community Room

- A fundraiser, replacing the International Noodles Night event. Ticket: \$15/person
- Menu includes 8 dishes – with a set schedule, each chef will demonstrate the preparation of the specific dish.
- Most of the food will be prepared & ready to be served.
- Flyer out in 2 weeks (by mid-May) – going for pre-sale of the tickets.
- If proven a successful fundraiser, we may make it an annual event, exact timing to be determined.

Chinatown Summer Fair - July 17, Sunday

- Pre-sale of food tickets will be considered.
- Raymond Lin will call a planning meeting among leaders for the Summer Fair project in late May, to reassess menu, pricing, etc. Fr. Li will participate in the planning meeting.

Parish Photo Directory – life touch

- Life Touch proposes this project.
- We will see what they have to offer. Past contact has generated very little interest among the parishioners.

Closing Prayer.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 18, 2011, 7pm in the Community Room

Minutes recorded by Lily May