

Patio Eucharists

Dates:

Plan well ahead of time and get on A.S. calendar. I recommend scheduling the P.E.'s on the same day each month (second Tuesday, or some such). Last year, one of the eucharists was on a different day and it seemed to cause confusion all around. Of course, this should all work for Ian's calendar or whoever is celebrating.

Publicity:

Include announcements in each month's CAS as well as the appropriate weekly E-Note. John Sack has some great photos of last year's eucharists that could enhance this effort. Posters (with photos?) announcing the dates could be placed around the church campus.

Sign-Ups:

I feel it is important to take sign-ups for each P.E. because: You'll know how many are coming for set-up and beverage purposes. Commitments to come are reinforced.

Food and Beverages:

Create food categories for sign-ups: main dish, veggie, salad, dessert. This allows some balance in what is being provided. We provided beverages last year -- wine, waters, and usually a lemonade-type beverage. I STRONGLY encourage asking for a specific donation for wine because this can get expensive. (or BYOB: since it is rather costly to provide wine, I suggest a BYOB situation or a suggested donation per pour.) We purchased "nice" and hopefully "interesting" 750 ml bottles rather than jug wines. People seemed to appreciate this.

Note: I just discovered a major cache of wine and a lesser amount of soft drinks in the storage room adjacent to the kitchen. I estimate there is enough for two or three or more P.E.'s. I would still ask for a donation. (As of 5/18/06, I don't know if this is still available.)

Set-Up:

Jeff Rensch and the Tables-R-Us folks helped with table and chair set-up. If the P.E. begins at 6:00 p.m., they got there around 5:15. We set up tables in the breezeway in order to be out of direct sunlight. This might not be a problem in May, but it will be as the summer progresses. Attendees helped take the tables and chairs down. We used the salmon colored tablecloths and asked attendees to take home and wash.

Altar Guild:

Be sure to keep the Altar Guild in the loop early and often because they will set-up for the Eucharist. I would give them as much notice as possible.

Program:

I was actually not involved in this last year and the "programs" rather took care of themselves. Mimi Dye and Topaz performed one time and the youth group had a talent show another. This added SO MUCH to the events.

Childcare:

We did not provide childcare since these were billed as "intergenerational" events. It really didn't matter how messy or noisy the kids were and, as I recall, this was never an issue.