

**Minutes of Meeting on Monday March 20, 2006 at 10:30 AM at the Chancery
Re: Vietnamese Mass at St. Thomas à Becket Church**

**1421 Wiehle Ave.
Reston, VA 20190-3899**

In attendance: Rev. Mark S. Mealey, Vicar General for Administration and Moderator of the Curia; Rev. Richard A. Mullins, Multicultural Ministries Director; Rev. Thomas P. Ferguson, Pastor of St. Thomas à Becket; Rev. John Baptist Vuong Nguyen, Pastor of Holy Martyrs of Vietnam; Thu H. Bui, Chairman of Parish Council at Holy Martyrs of Vietnam Thanh V. Nguyen, Parish Council Member.

After listening to the generous offer from father Ferguson of allowing the Vietnamese parishioners from Holy Martyrs of Vietnam to have a Sunday mass at St. Thomas à Becket, Holy Martyrs of Vietnam presented the circumstances of the need to have a Vietnamese mass in another church:

- Many people could not get to the Vietnamese church due to lack of transportation, and distance.
- Holy Martyrs of Vietnam needs more room to accommodate the increase in church attendance.
- The Vietnamese need to preserve their identity and sense of belonging to a home away from home.
- They wish to receive other sacraments and rites besides communion and confession (wedding, funeral, confirmation) in Vietnamese.
- They need to take part in group activities such as picnic, pilgrimage, lectures, and retreats at Holy Martyrs.
- They wish to be able to understand the homilies and liturgy and be able to confess in their native language.
- Holy Martyrs is a national parish.
- Holy Martyrs of Vietnam is in the process of being renovated to provide more seating and parking spaces.
- Thomas à Becket cannot accommodate the Vietnamese masses on solemn feast days such as Easter and Christmas.

With the suggestions from father Mealey and Mullins, the group arrived at the following temporary agreements:

1. St. Thomas à Becket will host a Vietnamese mass on regular Sunday evenings, around 7:30 PM for a group of parishioners from Holy Martyrs of Vietnam residing in the Reston, Herdon, Chantilly, Vienna, Sterling, Leesburg and Ashburn areas.

2. The priests from Holy Martyrs of Vietnam will start to celebrate these masses after Easter, and hopefully before May 1st.
3. The pastor of Holy Martyrs of Vietnam will meet with representatives from this Vietnamese group to work out the arrangement for these masses.
4. Holy Martyrs of Vietnam will contribute to the cost of maintenance, and utilities at St. Thomas à Becket. The collection envelopes of Holy Martyrs of Vietnam will be returned to the Vietnamese church.
5. The Vietnamese group will continue to use other services at Holy Martyrs of Vietnam, and will attend masses on solemn feast days there.
6. By the end of the summer, the two pastors will meet again to work out a contract for a long term arrangement and to determine the percentage of the collections from the Vietnamese masses that should be given to St. Thomas à Becket.

The meeting ended at 11:30 AM

Minutes written by Thu H Bui
Chairman of Parish Council at Holy Martyrs of Vietnam.