

Volunteers: Linda, Liz , Erin.

Students: Rainbow, Jing, Yoko, Marie, Issac

A brief review of Mardi Gras with emphasis on the history and origin of Mardi Gras and how those early traditions translate to the contemporary celebration was presented as an introduction to the written material in EEN on Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday. Definitions were given, and class practiced pronunciation of several vocabulary words (sober, serious, tokens, solemn etc.)

The students were entering the narthex as the choir and Father Regis were assembling to process into the sanctuary for Ash Wednesday worship. This facilitated a smooth transition into a presentation and discussion of Ash Wednesday. The students were curious and asked many questions. Jing asked if all the people she had seen in the sanctuary were French. From reading the EEN which referenced that Mardi Gras was very popular in areas with large French and Spanish populations, she thought that the people she was seeing in the church must all be French. This question led to a brief discussion of Christianity, denominational differences and similarities and how those factors influence the recognition of Ash Wednesday and Lent.

One educational psychology theory states that if a student **only hears** a new learning, they will most likely quickly forget it. If a student **hears and sees** a new learning, they most likely will retain it for a period. However, if a learner **experiences** a new learning, they most likely will retain it for a very long period, if not forever.

On Ash Wednesday, the students were invited to come into the sanctuary to be a part of the imposition of ashes. It was made very clear that if they did not wish to come, they were welcome to stay in the board room. The class heard the music and the liturgy, observed the process, held and read the bulletin and experienced Ash Wednesday.

Years from now, because of that experience they will still remember and be able to identify and discuss Ash Wednesday.

After the students returned to the board room for the remainder of the class, Issac joined the class for the last quarter of the session. A discussion of Valentine's Day as it is observed in the United States as compared to other countries followed. Jing and Rainbow (China) said only very recently had Valentine's Day, which they described as a Western celebration, been observed in China. Yoko (Japan) shared that only the girls/women give chocolate to boys/men on February 14. On White Day which is March 17 the boys/men give white chocolate to the girls/women. Issac (Haiti) thought that writing a poem or a letter to express one's affection was preferable to getting candy or sending flowers. The Valentine bingo game was postponed until Wednesday, February 21, 2018.

Elizabeth Murphy

