

## St Patrick Parish Faith Formation Commission Minutes: October 15, 2013 meeting

Members present: Mike Ward, Allyson Brawner, Sherry Welch, Shelly Lydon, Sheila Mellick, Mike Erickson, Lisa Snitker, Lori Ross, and Dr. Steve Perkins. Father Jim Dubert and Angeline Nesseim were absent.

### 1. Prayer

The meeting opened with a Leader Gram Prayer (page 3) about increasing our faith (ie: Bible Study is great as it tells us all the great things that God has done and/or made good from the bad) and Respect Life Month....developing a culture of life... like going to church regularly and the KC's tootsie roll sale. We used the 'Sharing Starters' for discussion....having respect for another human being, having compassion for one another and working to change our culture of the notion that humans are simply part of a disposable society.

### 2. Administrative Issues

- Approval of Minutes-by consensus
- Reports
  - i. Youth
    1. Mike Erickson reported that the intergenerational evening with the K-6 grades was a good turnout and that some good feedback was received and that he has a couple new ideas for going forward.
    2. Our first 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student/parent session (same as #1 above) is October 30th.
    3. Options discussed as to concerns about lack of basic faith knowledge among Wed night kids were as follows:
      - review basic prayers at the beginning of every year;
      - encourage devotions at bedtime (during the intergenerational meetings);
      - encourage praying the Rosary;
      - have a quiz bowl...like a Jeopardy game (Dr. Perkins has info on this)
    4. Allyson-not much new since last meeting. The bibles have been shipped, there is a food drive going on (students' idea and flyer design by students). Discussion on Fields of Faith is that although it is a good idea (encourages a lifelong process and plants seed of faith), the theme (skit) was not age appropriate.
  - ii. School

Mike Ward reported that there was a state visit on 10/8 and 10/9. The security system is entirely in place. Lori Ross reported that there is a positive behavior initiative (PBIS) in place and (using the wildcat theme) a ROAR initiative is also in place R= responsible, O=organized, A=accepting, and R=respectful.
  - iii. Adult
    - RCIA begins October 14<sup>th</sup>...what does RCIA look like? Mike Ward handed out an RCIA calendar setting a timeline of the 4 main parts to RCIA...INQUIRY, CATECHUMENATE (rite of acceptance), PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT and MYSTAGOGY (mystery, sacraments, prayer, evangelization)...Break Open the Word during Lent.
    - There was a good turnout for the first "Catholicism" night...about 15 people
    - Bible study is deep and contains good stuff
  - iv. Financials-review of financials thru August 2013

### **3. In-service/training**

- a. Dreams and Visions discussion (pages 95-)
  1. We need to be role models
  2. Encourage participation
  3. Hard to balance revenue with a handshake
  4. Slowly open the door....
  5. Once a month talk about birthdays and anniversaries of parish members
  6. What (if anything) are we doing to encourage people to join our church
  7. Determine a formal way to encourage fall-away Catholics to feel like coming back

### **4. Visioning for the Future**

- a. Discussion included in #3 above

### **5. Other Business or Concerns**

- a. "Caring for Marriages" presentation on Nov 6<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm (possibly put it in the paper to encourage attendance). Some from this group will bring bars and beverages and setting up. Set up at 6:30.
- b. Sheila Mellick will be our representative on the Pastoral Council
- c. Will discuss Textbook evaluation committee at our next meeting
- d. Dr. Perkins will be attending a Catholic conference in California and will bring back information for us (health care and social justice)

### **6. Closing Prayer**

Next meeting November 19th

## 7. Visioning for the Future

- Discussions included parish retreat OR parish mission options.
  1. SANCTUS-is a one day retreat (\$15 estimate) with a format similar to (simplified version) a CEW or a TEC;
  2. Light of the World-is a very structured parish evangelization claiming the Kerygmatic method. People come here and train us/teach us how to lead these retreats. They will help with the first retreat, then we are on our own.
  3. Parish Mission-Franciscan Community-was done here in Waukon in 2007. An older crowd attended. Fr. Dupert feels that a mission will involve more people than retreats due to time constraints.
  4. "Passionists" and "Redemptionists" should also be considered for retreats.

## 8. In-service/Training

- Discussed Chapter 6 of "Dreams and Visions". Discussion included things we currently do (the old silo way of teaching) vs the spiral scope and sequence approach (where all grades are taught the same thing during the 'school' year).
- Faith Formation opportunities that were discussed were:
  1. The GROWING FAITH PROJECT, Why do we need the Church, by Bill Huebsch.
  2. As far as intergenerational...Allyson reported that we are already doing some of that this year. She has scheduled two for K-6; two for 7&8; and two for 9-12 (where parents will attend with the student)

## 9. Other Business or Concerns

- a. Fields of Faith-Allyson attended the last planning session. She reported that the leaders are preparing "cards" to give attendees as to whether they have/will accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, as well as follow-up contacts to those who do sign the cards. Allyson will get more detail as to what the follow-up will involve,
- b. Bible Study at school is lead by Marcus Weymiller (??)
- c. She is waiting for the name of the second adult speaker and she is not sure who the student speakers will be.
- d. Same skit as last year....most of us expressed concern over the skit.
- e. Allyson will attend their next planning session;
- f. St. Pat's (Allyson) will plan some sort of social gathering after the event for any student who may have questions about what is discussed at Fields of Faith.

10. Closing Prayer was the "Closing Prayer" in the Leader'GRAM. Meeting closed at 7:03pm. Our next meeting is October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.