

St Patrick Parish Faith Formation Commission Minutes: December 10, 2013 meeting

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

1. Prayer

The meeting opened with a Leader Gram Prayer (page 3) about being open to His word. We were encouraged to work with this Advent/Christmas season (the consumerism, the gaudiness, and the excesses of our cultural) not against it. We also talked about how scared Mary must have felt.

2. Administrative Issues

- a. Approval of Minutes included this correction...Allyson had reported on **LifeTeen.com** (not LifeTeam.com)
- b. Reports
 - i. Youth
 1. Allyson reported that Life Teen approved a policy that allows parishes to use these (non-text book) programs. They are a fun and engaging way to learn. It lends itself to Youth and Ministry. It is kind of pricey-\$800/year, but there are lots of positives about it.
 - ii. School-nothing new
 - iii. Adult-the attendance at the Catholicism series is down so we will postpone it and see what other options there might be (ie: off parish grounds and/or after daily Mass).
 - iv. Financials-there was no new information to discuss

3. In-service/training

- a. Presentation and discussion on *Forming Intentional Disciples* by Sherry Weddell. It is the most popular Catholic book out there right now. It starts with a photo of Jesus, as Jesus is the center of all we are and all we do. Fewer and fewer people are connected to church. Some reasons mentioned were that Catholics do NOT talk about their personal journey (as most were never encouraged to do so). We need to become more comfortable doing so. If we don't talk about it, it makes it hard for most Catholics to think about it. Following Jesus is never an unconscious decision; think about dropping your net to follow Jesus.

During the presentation, we discussed passive thresholds:

- **Trust**-do we foster trust in the parish community
- **Curiosity**-to be curious we need to first have heard about Him and He needs to be at the center of our lives. We need to proclaim Jesus Christ and ask questions...If you are asked a question, ask a question back.
- **Openness**-can be incredibly difficult...like understanding that Eucharist Adoration **is** the presence of God.

We also discussed active thresholds:

- **Seeking**-similar to dating with a purpose...commit your life to the person of Jesus. Be specific about your faith...what it looks like to follow Jesus. Be vulnerable...share your own faith.
- **Intentional Discipleship**-Kerygma-The great story of Jesus. Are you ready? Why not? Sustained prayer is crucial.

In our parish, the culture needs to change...as, it is expected that Christians will have a relationship with Jesus.

4. Other Business or concerns

- a. Light of the World-we decided that we would like to contact them to come give us a presentation. Mike Erickson will find out times that work for them to come here and let us know. Mike Ward contacted Nick March, pastor of Christ our Hope cluster (they have used Light of the World).
- b. The textbook evaluation team may look at having someone who teaches (below 5th grade level) to sit on the panel.

- c. Allyson also reported that her Youth Group and Faith Formation (for 9th-12th graders) is going well, she averages about 15 students. High school kids are scared that they'll be the only ones there. Parent's night last week went well (even though it was foggy).
- d. Pew cards-not much discussion as to late hour

5. Closing Prayer

Next meeting January 21, 2014

