

Faith Formation Commission

4.4.2019

Youth Faith Formation Report

Middle School-

- We only have 3 middle school gatherings.
 - This Sunday is our last Encounter, then 2 Wednesday sessions with one being Living Stations of the Cross (if I can get enough participants)
 - Starting to think about next year
 - Potential changes include adding on 15 minutes to Wednesday night & meeting every week
 - No Sunday's

High School-

- High school youth also have three Wednesday night sessions left.
- Starting to think about next year...and not really sure what that will look like
 - Things to consider
 - Adding 15 minutes on to the Wednesday night sessions & meeting weekly
 - Confirmation is 9/29/19
 - Religious Education begins mid-September, traditionally
 - What is in question?
 - Will the then 10th & 11th graders actually continue to participate in Religious Education? Will they just assume they're done? Since they've received the sacrament?
 - What happens to High School Faith Formation?
 - What is considered H.S? Because of Jr. High CF situation. Will 9th grade continue to be H.S or be moved to middle school.
 - How would we like to "market" it?

HOMESCHOOL= *To be honest, I haven't checked in with families. And I also can see (video sessions) that the majority haven't done anything. Homeschool seems to be a way to get out of coming to Religious Education for convenience purposes. I'm trying to figure out what (realistic) expectations should be while maintaining the integrity and importance of faith formation.*

Confirmation- chugging along. I'm very behind on getting sponsors their information. And also, behind because I haven't received what I need from the youth.

- One more session this year (April 28)
- We'll reconvene in August for Session 5 and 2nd Interview
- September we'll have an all-day retreat & then Confirmation Mass
- Candidates are supposed to participate in Living Stations as a way to minister to the parish...youth don't willingly volunteer & so I usually have the candidates that haven't done anything (that's requested if them in the program) do it as their "make-up" work.

- I'll be handing out a sign-up for Confirmation Mass times at our Session 4 gathering. The handouts will be based on candidate participation (Interview, Sponsor/Parent questions, turned in paperwork, attendance, etc.). I'd like to move away from families thinking they will get the Mass they want just because. Being the candidates are youth (maturity & understanding), they should be held to a higher standard of sacramental preparation participation.
- I am planning on purchasing the LIFE TEEN confirmation resource called Purpose. "Purpose is a transformative approach to confirmation. Multiple components combine impactful curriculum with a powerful digital tool to enhance communication and ease administrative tasks. Coupled with engaging supplementary material for teens and parents, Purpose is more than just a resource. It is a whole new approach to sacramental preparation."
 - The cost is \$199 for the parish, since we have a LIFE Teen subscription, otherwise it would be \$299. The Purpose subscription last a year and grants access to a phone app as well as receiving several books, handouts, and videos.

Youth Ministry-

- So far okay. About 6ish youth that regularly attend. Mainly middle school youth.
- Two more gatherings:
 - April 14th for a CST: Caring for God's Creation activity from 10:30 am-12:30 pm (in the Wood Gym)
 - Making zero waste produce bags
 - Starting transplants of fruits, vegetables, and succulents
 - Potential nature walk/trash pick-up if nice outside
 - April 28th-Last Youth Group of the year from 6-8 pm
- Trying to figure out what Youth Ministry at St. Pat's should look like, given the potential shift in high school religious education

Things I'm pondering:

- obviously, what's going to happen next year?
- Will FORMED be supplemental or replace current curriculum?
 - Especially considering budget cuts
- How do we get parents/families involved and taking on more of an active role of being the primary educators of the faith?