

St. Gabriel Parish: Agenda for January 21st, 2020 – Evangelization and Christian Formation Commission Meeting

7:00-8:30pm - In the Conference Room

Present This Commission: Bob, Don, Lea, Gerry, Terry, Tina

Next Commission: February 18th, 2020 ((Our Commissions Report Due February 18th))

I. Opening Prayer!

II. *Brief* News, Information and Updates in Christian Formation

a. Child Ministry - Bonnie

- i. CGS Update: short and long term goals for parish and (school??)
- ii. Update on permanent space for atrium
- iii. How do we promote Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in our parish
- iv. Report on a “promotion” for CGS at St. Charles
- v. First Reconciliation this Saturday, Jan. 18th
- vi. Safeguarding/Safe Environment Schedule of lessons sent home to parents via email
- vii. Reconciliation for grades 3-5th during Lent

Additional Notes:

- CGS
 - Goal is to finish the year strong for Level I. A couple of students have been introduced to Level II works.
 - Mid-term goal: 1st Grade students will start Level II next year.
 - The Atrium is moving into a new room (across the hall from STEM lab) in the summer. It will be smaller, but much easier to maintain the works and the space.
 - We are looking ahead to CGS being adopted into the day school. Plans and details to be discussed, decided upon and communicated.
 - Bonnie is presenting an In-Service to staff in February so that everyone has a good understanding of what CGS is.
- First Reconciliation – 30 of 32 families came; 3 of 4 priests made it (there was a snowstorm that day). There was lot of positive feedback from parents on both the service itself and the preparation for it. Families have been receiving resources via email from Gerry in lieu of books. The same will be done for First Communion. Books will be ordered for the class next year.
- Safeguarding – has been rescheduled to mid-February due to illness.
- Reconciliation for Grades 3-5 during Lent – Father Tim will come in between masses on Sundays to offer Reconciliation to the Religious Education kids. We are looking for another priest who can come on Monday evening.

b. Youth Ministry- Lea

- i. Feedback Confirmation Retreat in December
- ii. MS Edge Program update
- iii. HS Program
- iv. Moms group- update

Additional Notes:

- Retreat – The options for a retreat were two weekends in December... very unpopular dates. For those who attended, it went well overall. Students seemed to enjoy it and gave good feedback on

small group sharing, reconciliation, love letters from parents and “cross the line” activity, respectively. Those that couldn’t attend went on other retreats (or are planning to go).

- Middle School – parents started to help out during the sessions, which has made a big difference.
- High School – is going well. Lea is meeting with other high schools in the area (youth ministers), and looking for best practices. She is putting together a program after gathering information. There are many programs in use, most of which are “customized” by each location/school.
- Mom’s Group – there are two sessions. Flyers are going into baptismal bags to get the word out. One session has babysitting available. They are doing a Lenten program. They want to get in on small group marketing, if there is opportunity.
- Lea would like to do a survey, specifically on desired schedules.
- She would like to have programming for the kids that fulfills a purpose year over year. So that by the time they reach confirmation, they have been purposefully exposed to necessary aspects of faith: scripture, creed, justice and charity, etc.
- A suggestion was to create a Mom’s Group “group” in the parish app to send reminders and announcements.

c. Adult Ministry - Gerry

- i. 1st Reconciliation update/ 1st communion prep
- ii. Thoughtful Thursdays
- iii. Survey with school and CF
- iv. Men’s Ministry Update- Don
- v. RCIA / adult Confirmation update
- vi. Gift to parish library, book giveaway report, Lenten series, Parish mission updates
- vii. EC Small Groups Update, Sunday AM small group – Gerry and Tina
- viii. Christian Formation Goals

Additional Notes:

- Sacrament Prep – parent meeting for First Communion coming up on February 9th and 10th.
- Thoughtful Thursdays are going strong. Currently looking at the Gospels of John and Stories of Divine Mercy. There about a dozen regular attendees.
- Scripture Study on Sunday between masses will resume on February 2nd.
- Survey Results were dismal. We have 198 families where the children are not enrolled in Religious Education, or the parish day school. Surveys were sent to each family: 148 via email; 50 via USPS. There were only 2 responses. We need to figure out what to do with these results.
- Men’s Ministry Update – sessions are starting again next week. We need marketing to drum up more interest.
- RCIA – there will be a Rite of Welcome this Sunday at 8:30 mass of candidates to be received into the church at Easter. There is a father and daughter who are both receiving First Communion; the father is also being confirmed. Additionally, we have a new adult Confirmation candidate.
- Gift to Parish – a generous parishioner has offered to donate new books to the library!
- Christmas Season Book Give Away – 250 copies of “Revisiting the Saints”, 50 copies of the Bible, and the remaining stock of “Beautiful Mercy” is out. 400 books were taken in total.
- Parish Mission – there will not be a parish mission this Lent. St. Boniface is doing one next year as part of their anniversary celebration and they have invited us to participate.
- Small Groups

- The Lenten Sessions will be starting soon.
- There is a huddle scheduled for February 13.
- Last week was training for group leaders. The content was very good.
- Two more groups are starting up this lent.
- Gerry is continuing his training.
- Gerry sent out email to set up 1:1 meetings with the Men's Small Group leaders.
- Christian Formation Goals - Gerry, Bonnie and Lea developed 1-, 3-, and 5-year goals.

III. Concluding Summary

a. Final questions, comments, thoughts and observations

Additional Notes:

- Religious Education Schedule – why not consider moving the Religious Education day from Monday to any other day that Father is available? Tina will add to the next agenda for discussion.
- Have we ever considered a family program? As per Gerry, we are looking to various events to bring family programming into the mix.
- Tina suggested following the Creed. She taught confirmation classes for years using this model.
- Do we have a marketing committee? If so, can we get flyers for CGS to the Mom's Group?
- Don and Bob were asked if the men in their Men's Groups could personally invite individuals that they know to join?
- It was noted that there is no group for young women to join after Confirmation.
- We are looking for ways to get all of the commissions known. Flyers, posters, announcements after mass, testimonials, The messenger (quarterly newsletter), etc. We need a way to "advertise" our various efforts and events.
- Tina is giving our Committee Presentation in the February All Commission Meeting.
- It was noted there is no description on the website about our commission, just a link to the formation site.

Concluding Prayer: The Divine Praises

Lea – mother/daughter retreat