

Our Lady of the Black Hills Discipleship Meeting

January 7, 2019, 6:00-7:30 pm

Members present: Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek, Deacon John Osnes, Deacon Greg Sass (Chair), Rhonda Gehlsen, Joni Osnes, Brad Blauvelt, Brenda Czmowski, LaChel McCollar, Stacy Tate, Teresa Thompson

Meeting opened with prayer led by Deacon John Osnes. Agenda and minutes from May 15, 2018 meeting were approved by John Osnes and seconded by Brenda Czmowski.

Discussion regarding the Mass times changes followed. Several members reported they had received comments stating they missed the 6 pm Sunday Mass but the group said they were not hearing negative comments about the changes now. Father Andrzej stated he will wait to see how the summer attendance goes. It was noted when faith formation classes are not held Sunday attendance is less.

Rhonda Gehlsen gave a report on resources, registration and attendance for Pre-K- High School, report attached. Rhonda was asked how the transition from traditional classes to Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is progressing. She is assessing the need for another Level I room and resources or to offer Level one at an additional time. The challenge is finding trained Catechesis of the Good Shepherd teachers. She has talked with Amy Jullian to arrange for a Level 2 training session this summer hosted by the OLBH parish and is looking for a Level 1 training for three interested people. Rhonda stated the training is 90 hours and those who work have trouble taking time off; LaChel McCollar said she would take the training if it were not organized the way it is. Deacon Greg asked Rhonda to present a 3 year plan for transitioning to Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for Pre-K-6 at the next Discipleship meeting. Rhonda told the group the addition of Wednesday night faith formation has worked well. Parents have positive comments and attendance is consistent. Another advantage is the children's classes are experiencing Adoration and some parents are attending Adoration while their children are in class. The Middle and High School attendance is minimal and discussion followed and plans to determine what is working in other churches to attract this age group include contacting those groups and reporting back at the next meeting.

Joni reported on Adult Faith Formation, see attached report. Sacrament preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist includes 4 meetings with the children and parents. Deacon Greg is using Forgiven from Formed in 4 sessions when Rhonda meets with the children. Parents have indicated this is helpful increase their knowledge about the sacraments so that they can teach their children. The parent group will use Presence for Eucharist preparation. They meet 4 times before First Communion is celebrated in May, 2019.

The Evangelization process, ChristLife, is proceeding. The session started September 30th and finished just before Thanksgiving. We had 64 registrants. The second set of sessions began on January 6 with 42 persons. This session teaches the tools necessary for becoming an intentional disciple. The third session will begin in March and conclude by Easter week.

There are 25 families who have had a child baptized at OLBH and are receiving follow up packets. Teresa Thompson suggested sending a postcard to these families to determine if they want to continue receiving these packets which would evaluate this form of follow-up. A Baptism gathering for families who have had a child baptized since January 2018 is in the planning stage.

Brad Blauvelt and Stacy Tate reported they have 3 candidates who are participating in the Adult RCIA class. They are using Symbolon and reported there has been honest, good dialogue with the participants.

Deacon John announced the Stewardship fair will be held on March 23 and 24, 2019 and all commissions will have space to provide information and excitement for participation in the ministries under those commissions. He asked for representatives from the discipleship commission to be present after all the Masses that weekend. Five grand prizes will be awarded to participants who visit the booths and fill their cards to be eligible for the drawing. Deacon John reminded the group that evaluations are necessary. Input from the parents and the children will help to improve our faith formation programs.

The next Discipleship meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2019. Deacon Greg Sass led prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Faith Formation Numbers As of 1/7/2019

SUNDAY	# Kids in Class	AVG Attendance	WEDNESDAY	# Kids in Class	AVG Attendance
CGS I	13	71%	CGS I	12	83%
CGS II	13	83%	CGS II	8	85%
CGS III	5	78%	CGS III	10	76%
Trad PreK	7	60%	Trad 1-3	9	84%
Trad 1-3	7	60%	Trad 4-5	4	85%
Trad 1-3	7	60%	Conf.	13	82%
Trad 4-5	7	77%	YDG I	2	100%
Trad 6	12	73%	YDB II	4	71%
Overall Average:	71	70%		62	83%

**No Stats on YDG II, or YDB I At The Moment

Curriculums In Use:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Levels I, II, III

** I have been in contact with Amy Julien to take the necessary steps to hold a Level II training this summer

**I have 2 Level I catechists who will finish their training in June 2019.

**I would like to begin a 2nd Level I atrium in May, after classes are finished (classroom next to basement exit doors)

Traditional Classes 1-3 & 4-5 use Spirit in Truth from Sophia Institute. Traditional 6th Grade uses Sealed by Fire and Confirmation uses Chosen by Ascension Press. Kids who have been confirmed use Ydisciple (7th & up). 1st Reconciliation/Eucharist uses Blessed by Dynamic Catholic for the children.

Adult Faith Formation

Wisdom Wednesdays

09/19/2018 – Reverence for the Eucharist – 20 participants

10/17/2018 – Internet Safety – 30 participants

11/14/2018 – Angels and Saints – 30 participants

01/16/2018 – Suicide Prevention

02/20/2019 – Deacon Ministry

03/20/2019 – Indulgences

04/17/2019 – Caring for the Earth (?)

Sunday Morning Faith Formation Classes

09/2018 – Presence

11/2018 – The Mass

01/2019 – Peter

03/2019 – Sharing the Good News

ChristLife

09/2018 – Discovering Christ – 63 Registered

01/2019 – Following Christ – 42 Registered

Sacrament Preparation for First Reconciliation and Eucharist Parents – 20 participants