

St Patrick Parish Faith Formation Commission Minutes: August 30, 2013 meeting

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

1. Prayer

The meeting opened with a Leader Gram Prayer (page 3) about the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and we used the 'Sharing Starters' for discussion....take time at the end of each day to determine where God was for you during the day, count your blessings, etc . There were no minutes to approve from our last meeting. Mike reminded us that the Leader gram is our tool and guide for our FFC service.

2. Administrative Issues

Discussion included the following reports:

- Approval of Minutes-no minutes to approve
- Youth
 - Formal registration day for k-12 faith formation for more face time with the parents
 - Allyson-has designed a once a month Faith Formation for 9-12 grades...some parents have a hard time paying the \$60 registration fee. Discussion followed as to whether we should offer it as a free will donation, waiving the fee, asking for parish donations (like for the bibles for confirmation). The first Youth Group meeting was held last night (8/29). The meetings will be held 2-3 times per month (outside the Faith Formation meeting). 25 people attended last night, all but 1 attendee were 9th or 10th graders. Confirmation was moved from Wed to Sun. Youth Masses are being planned for once a month on Sunday afternoon/evening. The first Mass is at 5pm on September 15th.
 - Calendar-has a couple errors...Confirmation will be on the 8th, 6th date night is on Sept., 21st and the February couples retreat is not on there. We are trying to figure out to mix the Catholicism Series and the Bible Series. Mike will re-do the flyers with the correct dates on them.
- School
 - Mrs. Hammel (5th grade teacher) is leaving; Dacia Sommer will be replacing her. 5th grade has the Mass (Sept 6th) her last day;
- Adult
 - Catholicism series will be once a month on Tuesday at 7pm beginning Sept 10th.
 - Great Adventure Bible Series with Fr. Jim will be on Tuesday and Thurs (both will be same lesson) starting on Sept 10th and 12th. It is a 24 part series.
- Financials
 - There is a lot of information in the financial packet. A review of the Financials shows that Budget to Actual Receipts and Expenditures (July 2012-June 2013) we nearly broke even. By consensus, we approved the financials.

3. In-service/Training

- Discussed Chapter 5 of “Dreams and Visions”. Discussion included things that we may look at doing that we are not currently doing...Faith Sharing once a month after the 10AM Mass; Retreats such as Busy Persons Retreat (one on one with a Spiritual Director). Mike will bring a few options with him to our next meeting.

4. Visioning for the Future

- Plans for Catechetical Sunday-volunteers needed. The commissioning service for the entire parish will be September 15th. Discussion included prayer cards for a family commitment (Mike passed around an example) to be passed out after Mass for family discussion during the week. Allyson asked if “prayers after communion” have ever been considered.
- Marriage Building-the Task Force have asked us to do a talk on Marriage Prep-their goal is to go around to each parish in the DioceseMarriage Prep has several options we can choose from. The ones we are currently using are 1) engagement encounter and pre-cana. FOCUS is also a marriage prep used in some parishes. The Engagement Encounter is an entire weekend...more talks, more topics, you write, you reflect, you read, you discuss. The Diocese would like to push the engagement encounter, but at a cost of more than \$200 to attend and it is usually a ways away, most couples decline. Ideas for improving Marriage Prep in the parish...included possibly a monthly shout out to people celebrating anniversaries that month. Doc Perkins liked the “FOCUS” he and his wife did. Fr. Jim asked if part of our criteria was Natural Family Planning Program and there currently is not...that is a weakness. Doc Perkins knows of a man in Decorah, Tony Kripola, who he will ask to call Deacon Mike for further discussion on this program. Also, on September 25th, Linda Manternak, from the Family Life Office, Archdiocese of Dubuque will be here.

5. Other Business or Concerns

- a. Fields of Faith-Mike Ward have met with Kim and Jacqueline Welch. Allyson will be attending all the planning sessions. The first one will be in September, we won't be actively participating again this year as not enough time to realize whether the “closing speaker” will incorporate the “Catholic” teaching on salvation...the “Catholic” way is the beginning (Baptism), then you continue to incorporate it into your life...it is not a one-time thing. For Catholics, the Eucharist is an alter call every Sunday. Some concerns from the one last year included: “saving” ...it's not the catholic way of thinking, the skit (suicide) and the alter call (do you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior).

- 6. Closing Prayer was the “Our Father”. Meeting closed at 8:45pm. Our next meeting is September 17th at 6pm.