

## Faith Formation Planning Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Location: Room 151, Church of St. Joseph, 1310 Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN, 55343

Submitted by: Denise Hirl

Attendees: Chuck Romportl, Denise Hirl, Jane Larson, Barb Kok, Kathleen Esh, Br. Luke, Roberta Wheeler, Colleen Porter, John Mavison

- Meeting started at 7:05pm with prayer led by Chuck Romportl, and included a reflection and scripture.
- Denise Hirl gave a presentation explaining Integrated Faith Formation and Life Long Learning as the new model for Faith Formation at St. Joseph's Parish.
  - Faith formation will be integrated birth to death, with all age groups offered continuous and connected opportunities to know, love and share Jesus
  - All Faith Formation activities will be better integrated to include elements of catechesis (know Jesus), worship and prayer (love Jesus) and service (share Jesus.)
- Denise Hirl gave an explanation of the new ministry model at St. Joseph's based on the concept of Shared Ministry.
  - Shared ministry is a concept:
    - *Through our Baptism, God calls each of us to use our gifts to spread God's Word and further the Reign of God in this world. When we volunteer to use our gifts in the parish or in the community because of our faith, we are ministering. When we minister, we participate in God's ongoing creative and restoring activity in the world. Volunteer ministers, professional lay ministers, and the clergy share together in the ministry of the Church, thus the term **shared ministry**. (Mary Ann Marschall, Shared Ministry Association of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis)*
  - Shared Ministry is a system:
    - Instead of asking for volunteers to sign up for needed tasks, shared ministry begins by gathering the gifts of the members of the community, and then directing each individual to a ministry based on each person's individual gifts, passions and time.
    - This will require a major change in mindset for our parishioners, who will be asked to see themselves as stewards of the gifts God has given them and each called to share those gifts with others.
    - The Pastoral Council is tasked with implementing this over time.
    - We will begin using this concept as we redevelop Faith Formation at St. Joe's.
- Denise Hirl shared the vision and conditions of satisfaction for Faith Formation as developed by the Joint Finance-Pastoral Council Committee this spring:
  - Faith Formation includes all those activities that provide individuals the opportunity and direction to grow spiritually, intellectually and morally in accord with the magisterium and its teachings.
  - Conditions of Satisfaction for a healthy Faith Formation Program at St. Joe's:
    - *Focused on Christ and in support of the parish mission*
    - *Regular, accountable and committed active participation by parents, guardians and sponsors.*
    - *Committed, well trained volunteer ministers*
    - *Cohesive, integrated faith formation plan for each population subset of the parish, operating on a continuum (life long learning)*
    - *Well researched, documented and evaluated training programs for volunteer ministers in place and available frequently throughout the year*
    - *All FF activities must incorporate catechesis, worship and service (evangelization)*

- *Must have a preapproved budget*
- The participants offered feedback and discussion on the above topics:
  - It will take a lot of effort to get this process of change going, but once it gets going it will keep going.
  - We are a large parish with three Mass "communities". How are we going to integrate these communities on such a large scale?
  - St. Timothy's in Maple Lake has a larger parish and they have successfully offered an integrated program by using shared ministry models and offering many of their life long learning programs on Wednesday nights, often beginning with a meal and ending in community prayer. Every activity in the parish provides an opportunity for a person to encounter Christ on a personal level.
  - The change in mindset will be to help everyone understand that every member of the parish has gifts and all these gifts are valuable. We have to commission and empower each member and give them the knowledge of how important their gifts are to the parish. Example: even the oldest members are valuable as prayer partners for other parishioners.
  - If we are going to expect parents to be the primary educators, we need to make sure they are comfortable and educated in the knowledge they are passing to their children. The Family Formation Program from St. Paul's in Ham Lake does this by teaching the parents first, and empowering them to teach their children.
  - Cyclical programs such as Pastoral Planning's programs that rotate on a 3-year themed cycle are beneficial because that seems to be the best way for people to learn the faith.
  - Faith formation should be intergenerational and intercommunal.
  - Befrienders has an effective method for calling forth people based on their gifts, helping them discern the use of those gifts, and training and supporting them.
  - Families should be the center of most Faith Formation activities.
  - What are our goals for this fall? We will have some type of program for youth and adults, and we will begin to move toward the objectives discussed. It will be different than what we have had in the past. Beyond that, the details are not worked out yet. This group is charged with working out those details.
  - Roberta Wheeler is in the process of organizing a speaker program for the 9th - 12th graders that fits many of the objectives discussed.
  - Chuck distributed an article called "Pillars of Life Long Faith Formation".
- As a next step, four tasks were identified that need action. Participants were asked to look at their gifts and discern whether they were called to commit to one or more the tasks. People who weren't at the meeting are also asked to discern and commit to these tasks. Names of people who have already responded are in bold. In keeping with the shared ministry model, if no one comes forward from our group to commit, we will need to go out and find who has the gifts to meet the task, or let the task go unfinished for now.
  - Identify and review resources for youth Faith Formation programs: **Denise Hirl**
  - Conduct "fact finding" discussions with parishioners to get feedback on faith formation needs, concerns and possible ministers: **Barb Kok**
  - Record minutes of each meeting and submit within 3 days to Chuck for distribution to all interested people (future meeting dates: 7/1, 7/15, 7/29, 8/12, 8/26):
  - Identify and review resources for adult faith formation:
- We closed with prayer, reading two passages from scripture.
- The meeting ended at 9:05pm.
- The next meeting is Wednesday, July 1, 2009 at 7:00 pm in room 151.