

FAITH FORMATION PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: July 1, 2009

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

Submitted by: Karen Totall

Attendees: Pat Teynor, Karen Totall, Kay Kopesky, Kathleen Esh, Bro. Luke Winstead, Chuck Romportl

Meeting started at 7:10pm with Welcome & introductions.

Opening prayer, based on last Sunday's Gospel.

Review of last meetings minutes.

Karen Totall agreed to take minutes tonight.

Our vision for VOLUNTEERISM sound a lot like the:

L.O.V.E. Agreement – Part of Registration for JIS, and now St. John's School parents.

Lots **O**f **V**olunteer **E**nergy

Parents would have to sign up for a certain number of opportunities based upon their talents. For example, Hall Monitor, parent to sit with class as second adult in classroom, etc.

Chuck passed out "**The 50 – 50 Covenant**," as a possible model for inviting ownership by parents. The least effective moments of faith formation is the time and talent sign up. We need to challenge people to realize their baptism calls them to more than just attending mass and pledging some money. The parish also needs to provide to the people as well – great liturgy, formation programs, welcoming catechism, prayer. The Parish's promise of what they will offer. The person or household promises things as well.

There was a worksheet that you could choose elements to commit themselves to, to embrace a more Christian life at home, in the world and in the parish. There was also one for the parish – choose what the parish thinks is realistic to promise the people.

Pat suggested the **Steubenville model** – more of a Covenant than a contract. An agreement, not a requirement.

Create more of a family environment/community. Young single men helping widows with chores, older people helping with the pre-school program, provide support to single parent families.

- Each group shares a common denomination with a name (motto, color, etc.)

OR it could be a more inter-generational group

- Parishioners would be assigned?

MORE SUGGESTIONS FROM DISCUSSION:

Catechetical events could be inter-generational and then break-out into more specific groups.

-Food is a great draw – e.g. Muffins on Mainstreet, Doughnut Sunday, the group that meets after Sat. morning mass (share breakfast)

-Like the idea of older parishioners as prayer partners – valuable part of the parish

Need to concentrate on a few things and then build from there.

-The first priority should be the youth Faith Formation issue – how to get the parents involved so they don't just drop off their kids

Pat suggested -Theology of the Body – a program for the parents at the same time as the FF program?

If you have parent education at the same time as the kids – you won't have volunteers for the kids program.

-Kathleen's idea for first year – 2 or 3 weeks of class and then the 4th week – an inter-generational event – e.g. games after prayer, service project event make an advent wreath before Christmas

-Then expand it for next year

-The idea is to get the younger and older parishioners to intermingle more

-Need a 3 year plan to move towards our goal

Kay – Need parents to know how important it is for them to get involved if they want their children to get the sacraments.

4 Tasks from last meeting

-Resources for youth program – No one present

-Parish feedback – Barb not present

-Record minutes – Need volunteer

-Adult program resources – Brother Luke did some research and found some online and other resources (e.g. statistics) some require a fee, most were businesses so not free – just needs to be affordable

-Kathleen – Want to us to get “BACK ON TRACK” with the Catechism of the Catholic Church

-Pat – 30 booklets free from Knights of Columbus on the Catechism for adults. -Written by a very entertaining writer – Peter Kreeft

Only 3 months until classes start – need to get a plan soon.

-Elementary Program is one series

-Each year a different theme – e.g. 4th Grade – 10 Commandments

5th Grade – Sacraments

-Jr. High Program – A different series

Vision – Teach the parents and all grades the same thing from Catechism

Looked at a Three-year plan

-Tied to the weekly readings from the lectionary

The adult sessions would be open to the whole parish. Having it at the same time as the youth program is more likely to get attended by parents since they already have to drop off and pick up – They may as well stay.

-Do we need new materials – so the Elementary teachers have lesson plans for the different grades that match the adults? – Kathleen will look into 2 series suggested by Pat.

-Would the adult format be small group or lectures? Could we mail or e-mail the lessons to older parishioners who can't physically attend? (if they sign-up)

-WRAP UP

-Tasks to be worked on next meeting

-Same as last time – Continue to work on finding those resources.

- Meeting closed with Prayer/Song.