

## Faith Formation Commission Minutes

September 10, 2015

Loughry Room

The mission of the Faith Formation Commission is: To prepare the family of St. Joseph to joyfully and enthusiastically serve as disciples of Christ by providing formation to:

- *Empower all to grow evermore deeply in love, knowledge and understanding of Christ*
- *Encourage all to grow in holiness through the grace of the Holy Spirit, and*
- *Equip parishioners to go out into the world to proclaim the “good news” of the Gospel and their Catholic faith in word and deed.*

**Meeting began with Opening Prayer,** World Meeting of Families prayer at 7:00PM.

**Present:** Lori Ventura, Dave Braun, Beth Vrioni, John Brodarick, Eileen Szuba, Nick Begley, George Kashmar, Linda Couri, Eileen Glynn-Tucker

### **Announcements:**

- Next meeting: October 29<sup>th</sup> poses a conflict with Fr. Kartje’s Revelation study. We will meet in the Parish Library from 7-8:30PM on October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Welcome to Chris Keffer, Faith Formation Commission Staff Lead and Director of Catechesis.
- WOOF is now the “Faith Formation Commission”. We reviewed and edited the mission statement above. Please read and email any suggested revisions to Eileen.
- Ministry Leads will attend the upcoming World Meeting of Families (Brauns and Sullivans) in Philadelphia.
- Upcoming Adult Faith Formation programs include: Dei Verbum and Revelation Study (evenings only); Gospel of Luke and Choice Driven Life programs. Please try to attend.

### **Parish Communication:**

- Website: Later this Fall, the parish will begin using eCatholic for our website. Pages will be easier to create using a drag and drop format. Ministries will need someone responsible for reviewing and updating content themselves or with a Commission representative. Some of you have already done a terrific job creating your pages on the new website. Thank you!
- Carpenter and E-letter: Please cc Eileen and [Ckeffer@sjlibertyville.org](mailto:Ckeffer@sjlibertyville.org) on all submissions from Faith Formation Ministries.

## Ministry Reports:

- SJCS is off to a great start with increased enrollment from the end of last year. A Catholicity survey created by Anne Phoenix and the Archdiocese will be sent out soon to identify areas of strength and growth within the SJCS community. Our site visit for the recently-earned and awarded AdvancED Accreditation will take place in spring. All Archdiocesan schools will be visited over a period of 5 years.
- Marriage Enrichment had to cancel their Fall retreat due to health issues but looks forward to the March 5/6 retreat weekend. They are preparing for Supper and Substance. Engaged couples who have used the Preparing to Live and Love program have really enjoyed it and the FOCCUS couples who present it have found it to be a positive experience. Fr. Matt is piloting it in addition to FOCCUS.
- Planning for the upcoming Men's and Women's CRHP retreats is well underway. The Continuation Committee has played a key role in helping with the continuity between teams planning retreat weekends.
- SPRED meets 24X per year starting tomorrow with 7 friends and 9 helpers. Each year they participate in a SPRED Mass at Christmas and in June. The parish will look into having another Friends Mass (Last one in October of 2014) when the Friends actively help during the liturgy. SPRED helpers will be recognized on Catechetical Sunday with the other catechists of the parish.
- Women's Council will begin a monthly newsletter soon that will replace many emails previously sent. The Thanksgiving breakfast speaker has been identified for the Saturday morning before Thanksgiving. 3 new Lay Spiritual Directors were identified; Women's CRHP has 13 active and 1 inactive Lay Spiritual Companion. Women's CRHP is considering eliminating the shirts from the Program.
- YAM St. Joseph held Theology on Tap sessions over the summer at Pizzeria Deville and attended others throughout Lake County. A group traveled to Peru for a summer mission trip. They work in partnership with YAM Lake County. They are active leaders in the 5PM Sunday liturgy.
- Baptismal Formation continues to be a busy ministry with Baptisms almost every weekend. While formation sessions are offered monthly, efforts are made to make certain enough parents and Godparents are present to have a good discussion. Formation includes information on the Sacrament of Baptism and also on the commitment to raise the child in the faith which means fully participating in the sacramental life of the church.

- Totus tuus was very successful during the Summer. Dates for Summer of 2016 will be determined soon.

### **Working Discussion: Jubilee Year of Mercy**

We identified ideas for incorporating mercy into programs and themes throughout the Jubilee Year of Mercy which begins December 8<sup>th</sup> and ends November of 2016. Mercy can be the theme of the Thanksgiving breakfast hosted by CRHP, for CRHP retreats, and a Soup and Supper. Both SJCS and RE are using mercy as a theme this year and will look into ways to incorporate works of mercy into curriculum. Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet at WSFI is a possibility for teens. Fr. Kartje might offer a Scripture Program on Mercy as a theme in the Old and New Testaments with a component of accepting God's Mercy since many people struggle with that. Offering a program on Science and Religion is also recommended. We need to plan formation around Divine Mercy Sunday. The parish has sponsored 5 "build days" with Habitat for Humanity in Waukegan. This is an example of how those participating are not just doing service to help, but because they are called to Spiritual Works of Mercy as an example of living our faith. All ministry leads present will look at ways to incorporate the Jubilee Year of Mercy in ministries.

Meeting Ended at 8:35PM following our Closing Prayer.

Next Meetings:

- **October 28<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Library**
- December 3, 2015
- January 21, 2016
- March 3, 2016
- April 21, 2016
- June 2, 2016

These meeting will be held in the Loughry Room and will begin at 7PM.