

Wisdom of Our Faith Commission Minutes

May 14, 2015 Loughry Roomy

Present: Deacon George Kashmar, Anne Phoenix, Nick Begley, Lori Ventura, Patty Mitchell, Linda Couri, Dave Braun, Eileen Glynn-Tucker

Meeting Called to Order at 7:05PM and began with the opening prayer read aloud by all.

Meeting Opening Prayer (general business)

Lord Jesus Christ, we believe that you are the one Mediator,
and that you have established and continually sustain, here on earth,
your holy Church.

Continue to be present with your Church, gathered together today for this meeting.

Guide us by the power of your Holy Spirit,

and help us to always work towards the building up of your Church here on earth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, whose lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

- Amen

This prayer was written for the 1st year of our parish-wide formation plan and incorporates teaching of Lumen Gentium and Sacrosanctum Concilium.

Announcements:

- Tom Zimmer and Steve Moseley presented on SML at the Archdiocese of Chicago Evangelization Expo in April.
- Teresa is leaving our staff. Director of Catechesis job position has been posted. Interviewing will begin in June.
- Gemitus Spiritus Prayer Group: Fr. Matt has begun an intercessory prayer group for the priests and people of St. Joseph parish. Please contact Fr. Matt if you wish to become part of the group so he can notify you of special Masses, etc.

Parish Communication

- Website: In July, the parish will begin using eCatholic for our website. Pages will be easier to create using a drag and drop format. Each ministry will need someone responsible for reviewing and updating content themselves or with a Commission representative. eCatholic designed their system so a 70YO person could update the pages.
- Carpenter: Please cc Eileen and Director of Catechesis on all submissions.

- E-letter News and Notes Changes. Please email submissions up to two weeks before the event to Diane Larrabee (dlarrabee@sjlibertyville.org) with a cc to Director of Catechesis and Eileen. A FEW REMINDERS:
 - eLetters will be sent out on Wednesdays. **Please have articles in by the Monday prior to mailing.**
 - Articles should be *brief*. However, links to a pdf or webpage for more details can be included. Pictures can be included
 - Please send articles EXACTLY as they should appear. Diane may have to slightly edit an article to align with the rest of a particular eLetter. In general, she prefers not to edit or modify.
- Upcoming Mailing Dates: April 29, May 13, May 27, June 10, June 24

Commission Discussion

Wisdom of Our Faith –Does our name inform? Does it tell parishioners who we are and what our commission is about. There is agreement that a more descriptive name would be of benefit. Education and Faith Formation Commission is one option. A more action oriented title such as Learning and Growing in Faith was less favorably received.

Mission, Vision and Vital Few Priorities

The mission of the Wisdom of our Faith Commission: *In Jesus Christ we will grow and flourish through wisdom of our Catholic faith. We will provide opportunities for faith development to inspire everyone to participate and share a lifelong commitment to learning and spiritual growth.*

Does our mission describe what we do? Is it clear and concise? There is consensus that we could make a more descriptive and action oriented mission that is consistent with the parish and SJCS mission statements.

Options include:

As a Catholic Faith Community, we provide opportunities as Disciples of Christ through lifelong education and faith formation.

Recognizing our need to grow closer to Christ, we desire lifelong faith formation to grow in our understanding and depth of the Catholic faith, liturgy, and traditions empowered to live each day as Catholic Disciples.

Action: Eileen will create a google doc for all to review and offere suggestions to our commission name and mission.

Parish Wide 3 Year Faith Formation Plan:

Year 1 The Church and Sacraments

Year 2 Scripture and Tradition

Year 3 Human Person

What has God Revealed to us? Intellectual Formation

How does this deepen our relationship with God? Spiritual Formation

How does God call us to behave in the world, both internally and externally ? Human and Mission Formation

Questions:

- What have we done and where are we going?
- What is the best way to implement this plan in our parish?
- Are we a parish of intentional disciples? Why or why not?
- What does it take to get us to where we want to be?

As we look back on the first year of our faith formation plan, we have had inconsistent attendance at adult faith formation programs. Those who attend tend to rate the programs favorably and encourage us to continue to offer them. Deacon Kashmar spoke to a Biblical Walk Through the Mass by Edward Sri that he and others felt was a worthwhile Lenten program. (Plans are underway to offer it again this summer). We have had parishioners attend the programs as individuals rather than bringing programs to already established groups of parishioners. We have invited adults at large instead of targeting specific ministries or faith communities. One strategy as we move forward is to bring programs that support our annual theme to the various ministries. Additional work must also be done in ensuring that all ministries are forming their members around the themes.

Action: The Education or Faith Formation Committee will meet this summer to develop strategies to implement year two of the Parish Wide Faith Formation Plan. Conclusion: Eileen will create a google doc for all present and those who could not attend to review our name, mission and vital few.

Ministry Reports

- Dave Braun reported on the upcoming Marriage Enrichment Ministry programs from the Living in Love retreat to the Soup and Suppers.
- Anne Phoenix reported that the St. Joseph Catholic School and all the Chicago Archdiocese Schools received a recommendation for Accreditation from Ed-RED following a rigorous review process. Anne reported that the multiyear process was quite useful in identifying strengths, areas of growth and strategies for improvement that have made the school a stronger, thriving community.

- Deacon Kashmar reported that he is looking for couples (who may have had children baptized in recent years) to join the Baptism Formation Ministry. He relies on the parents to assist with the Formation of couples who are preparing to baptize infants.
- YAM-St. Joseph is hosting 3 sessions of Theology on Tap in June at Pizzeria DeVille. They will participate in YAM -Lake County for additional sessions.

Closing Prayer: We closed our meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meetings:

- September 10, 2015
- October 29, 2015
- 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.

Submitted by Eileen Glynn-Tucker 5/18/15