

Wisdom of Our Faith Commission MINUTES

September 11, 2014 Loughry Room

Opening Prayer --this prayer was written for the 1st year of our parish-wide formation plan and incorporates principles from the Lumen Gentium and Sacrosanctus Concilium.

Meeting Opening Prayer (for liturgical ministries)

Almighty Father,
we gather in Your Name with profound gratitude for
allowing us to minister in your most Sacred Mysteries.
Help us to deepen our understanding and appreciation of the sacraments that you have
given your Church.
As we grow in holiness, may we help others to experience the richness and treasures
that you have given to the Church, your Mystical Body.
Through your grace,
restore us in your love,
strengthen us in our faith,
and give us the courage and wisdom to boldly proclaim the Good News to all people.
Through Christ our Lord.
–Amen.

Present: Larry Johnson, Charles Pullin, Deacon George Kashmar, Theresa Unterfenger, Teresa Chiappone, Bridget Chaney, John Brodarick, Dave Braun, Richard Nowson, Patty Mitchell, Nick Begley, Kevin Sullivan, Jon Monroe, Kris Partain, Kathy Andrews, Eileen Glynn-Tucker

Welcome and Introductions

Ministry leads were asked to update the Wisdom of Our Faith Ministry List with their contact information.

New Initiative Review: World Meeting of Families

Wisdom of our Faith received a new initiative proposal from Fr. Matt to organize a group of parishioners (families) to attend the 8th World Meeting of Families which will be held Sept 22-27, 2015 in Philadelphia. Pope Frances may make his first US visit to conclude the conference. St. Joseph Church would cover the expenses of three representatives (Fr. Matt +2) of the parish. Interested parishioners will provide their own conference fees, travel costs, hotel and food, We will investigate renting buses to take the

interested parishioners to the conference for talks, communal prayer and sacraments, and other formational and community building opportunities at the conference. The World Meeting of Families is held every other year and 2015 marks the first time it will be held within the US.

After a brief discussion, all present agreed this is a worthwhile initiative of WOOF that is approved.

The Wisdom of our Faith 2014-2015 Vital Few were briefly reviewed.

OUR MISSION: *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*

OUR PLAN - Vital Few Priorities: Formation, Evangelization, Integration

Formation: Implement a Parish Formation Plan whereby all parish ministries utilize a common theme consistent with the major Vatican II Council documents as they form parishioners in our faith.

Evangelization: Engaged members of our faith community look upon life activities as faith experiences to help celebrate how being Catholic influences our perception of and approach to our daily lives. Intentional evangelization ensues as parishioners live in our community as Catholics.

Integration: Intentional integration of St. Joseph Catholic School and Religious Education Program into the larger St. Joseph Parish Community.

Parish Wide 3 Year Faith Formation Plan: Year 1 The Church and Sacraments: Eileen provided a brief overview of the plan rolled out by Fr. Matt in his homilies last weekend.

Breakout Sessions: Implementing the Parish Faith Formation plan in your ministries: We divided into four small groups to talk about the plan and how it would be implemented in ministries, additional resources needed, and how the ministry leads might receive formation, how we will put on formation as a parish. We regrouped to share highlights of breakout sessions:

- Use the prayers before and after meetings and events
- Make connections between the documents and us and the common themes
- Offer formation on the documents.
- Put links to the documents or actual copies on the parish website
- Offer summaries on the website and offer formation on the summaries.
- Learning and living the documents.
- Participating in events and encouraging others.
- Put Fr. Matt's articles from the Carpenter on the website.
- Check calendar on the website for schedule conflicts
- Add references such as USCCB to the parish website
- It would be nice to get three levels on the documents posted on the website and distributed. Level 1 is 1 page summaries, level two are multi-page summaries with a discussion / study guide and level 3 is the full document.

- For some ministries and meetings, such as SAC, a one-page summary could be incorporated into their meetings. Other ministries who offer more formation might want more detailed study guides (such as the opportunity to use a more detailed study guide post CRHP formations).
- For some ministries, such as SJCS and RCIA, formation is their main responsibility, their heart and soul.
- RE and the School could build community through the documents and formation plan by formation of parents.
- In newsletters, formation articles can be printed.
- Engage parents in the formation process for children.
- Consider offering a reception after a Mass for all newly-confirmed, both youth and those in the RCIA program. They could witness at the 5PM Mass about their journey to confirmation, inviting SJCS, RE and RCIA.
- Make the documents accessible, the quicker the better.
- Infuse the teaching naturally without forcing it.
- Need a series on the documents.
- Brochure of opportunities for the newly baptized and their parents within the bigness of the parish.
- Provide intentional activities for parents on Mass, Advent, etc.
- Talks with parents, all parents on how to parent adolescents, key formation for each year of religious formation in RE or school.
- Use the Living the Mass book by Joe Paprocki to be more intentional.
- Encourage parents. Live in and teach the faith attend mass because it's right, not just a responsibility. Do the right thing because it's the right thing to do. Walk hand in hand with children on their faith journey. Formation isn't a drop off and go event.
- Utilize a teaching Mass for kids and adults together.
- Look for formation questions, what does this mean for me, what does full and active participation look like?
- Witness stories – how is faith coming alive in our parish?

Next Steps: Ministries will be contacted by a member of the Wisdom of our Faith Formation Committee to determine the resources needed to execute the plan and for offering intellectual, spiritual, human and mission formation.

Next Meeting: November 13, 2014 Time changed to 6PM start.

Closing Prayer: Our prayer was printed on Holy Cards depicting the Mystical Marriage of Christ and the Church written for the 1st year of our parish-wide formation plan and incorporates principles from the Lumen Gentium and Sacrosanctus Concilium.