

Faith Formation Commission

October 11, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Opening:

The meeting of the SJN Faith Formation Commission was held October 11, 2010 at 7:00 pm at Faithful Shepherd Catholic School.

Present:

Elizabeth Gruenke, Kathryn Lang, Rebecca Driessen, Cole Aronson, Eric LaPree, Miranda Noll, Carolyn Krebs, Mary DiMarco, Judy Doonan-Twohy, Katie Plunkett, Kari Sethney, Jennifer Leighton, Claudia Mikos, Deirdre Murray, Mary Gruenke

Absent: Mark Joeger (Parish Council Liaison)

Prayer/Opening

Claudia Mikos led the group in an opening prayer. Afterward group members introduced themselves to the group for the benefit of members not at the first meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

"The Holy Longing" Discussion

The group reflected on readings in chapters 1 and 2. Chapter 3 will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the September 13th meeting were approved. Going forward meeting minutes will be emailed to the committee members following the meeting for approval. Once approved, the minutes will be forwarded to Theresa Kraus. There will be no need to approve the minutes at the start of each meeting.

Staff Reports

1. Judy: Registration numbers are down for Faith Formations classes. Families are registering only during the "required" years. Discussion centered on the cause of this trend.
 - a. Maybe an increase of the fees.
 - b. School and sports obligations and general busyness of families.
 - c. Lower enrollment in District 196.

Question: How do we get faith formation to "stand out" among other choices offered to families?

- a. A subcommittee should be formed to answer the question.
 - b. Calling or surveying families who didn't enroll this year but were enrolled last year. It would be helpful to get the numbers of enrollment from previous year to compare to this year.
 - c. Judy will get the numbers and we can form a plan to go forward.
2. Judy: Four to five family clusters want to use their own text book. The clusters were explained the importance of the curriculum being consistent among all groups. Every 5 - 7 years materials are re-evaluated, and anyone can be part of the evaluation process. It is after this evaluation that new materials will be introduced to all groups.

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Liaison Reports

Mary D. reminded committee members to contact their staff member liaison before the next meeting if they haven't already done so.

Jennifer L. will be the Parent Liaison. This role will need to be defined more.

Goals and Objectives

The parish council reviewed this committee's goals and objectives. They submitted their suggestions for revisions to Mary D. who brought them to this meeting for discussion. They are:

Objective 3: *"Define and clarify what type of information our commission needs, if it is available or will it be available."* The parish council suggested removing this objective.

This objective should remain because the commission has not been able to receive information it has requested, and are concerned that it would be too easy to lose sight of this need.

Objective 4: *"Work with Staff on ACRE assessments for fifth, eighth, and tenth grade students. Work with staff on 2009-2010 evaluations."* The parish council suggested adding, "Based on demographic, determine upcoming programs and registration".

The commission agreed on a change, but programs and registration isn't based on demographics only. It was recommended that "evaluation results" should be substituted for "demographics".

Objective 5: *"Check with staff as to how First Fruits is presented within their programs."* Parish council recommends rewording as: "Work with Faith formation staff as to how First Fruits is presented within all programs."

The commission agreed with the change as presented.

New Ministry Proposal

Mary D. distributed a proposal by John Trayner for a new ministry at SJN reaching out to returning Catholics. Mary asked that members review the proposal and submit any additional questions regarding this new ministry to her by October 18th.

Closing Prayer

Mary DiMarco

The meeting was adjourned by Mary DiMarco at 9:05 pm.

The next meeting is November 8th 7:00 pm at Faithful Shepherd. Kari Sethney will provide prayer and snacks.

Meeting minutes submitted by Mary Gruenke