

Draft MINUTES
Faith Formation Commission meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2015 - 7:05 pm - St Louis Room

Present: Fr Secora, Tom Primmer, Ricardo Garcia (Coordinator of Middle School Youth Ministry), Tina Colburn (FFC Chair), Rosemary Wilson (FFC Vice Chair), Rita Hayes, Patty Willadsen, Joel Rogers (Pastoral Council Representative), Stacy Ryan (Catholic School Board liaison), Rosie Stanley

Absent: Anna Steele, Kari Ricke, Claire Aitchison, Grant Pahl

Meeting called to order: 7:05p.m.

Prayer and reflection led by Tom

Minutes of October 14th, 2014 meeting approved with one correction.

As the first order of business, Rita volunteered to attend the Core Retreat on January 31, as Anna had requested for a FFC member at the retreat.

Stacy's report from Catholic School Board,

CSB is looking at budgets and has approved fee increase for Preschool. January 20th will be the Preschool round-up.

Joel said Pastoral Council did not meet in December.

Ricardo's report:

Ricardo said he would like to encourage more youth from St. Thomas to go to NCYC.

Ricardo is researching the possibility of starting a Sports Ministry here at St Cecilia's. He has met with Traci Schermerhorn who leads Sports Ministry for Ankeny First United Methodist Church. This is a ministry that makes money for the church, it supports the person running the ministry and some. Several sports activities including basketball, soccer, tennis, yoga and group fitness classes can be offered. The programs would usually start with a liturgy component such as '5 minutes with the Word' or the 'Word among us' and then the activity. All activities are held on site except for swimming. It would be a wonderful opportunity to bring many talented people together.

The program needs to be well researched and coordinated; several parishioners who are passionate about implementing such a program can be actively involved in planning and leading the activities.

Tom's report

Called and Gifted

When Tom contacted the Archdiocese regarding this program, the Archdiocese shared with him that they would like to have a coordinated diocesan wide effort for this program.

Tom and Francine are also looking at the financial aspects of the program. We do not have a firm date for the program yet.

Father said if the Archdiocese is planning a coordinated effort, it would be a good idea to wait and see the direction they want to take. In the meantime we can rekindle programs such as Alpha.

Tom said he was contacted by Craig Fink who is one of the Gala chairs. Craig is brainstorming ideas for 'Fund A Need'. Among ideas that are being considered are:

- Book give away for Christmas and Easter which is right now being funded by Father, the cost is 7,000 to 8,000 dollars.
- Portable stereo system with an Ipod dock that can be moved around and between rooms.
- Looking into fixing the sound reverberation in the Multipurpose hall.
- Portable and lockable cart for Children's Liturgy of the Word.
- The setting up of a speakers fund. With such a fund in place we can focus on event promotions.

- Money to begin a Youth Sports ministry, and space to store equipment.

Father said he would support funding books and technology, he felt that this is a great way to spread the message.

Rosemary suggested CDs as giveaways as many parishioners like to listen to them in the car and are quite inexpensive .

Father said items could also be funded by Memorial Funds. Families usually like to contribute toward a solid item that they can direct their funds to.

The book 'Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States' will be the next step in adult faith formation.

Tina's report

Tina attended the Pastoral council strategic meeting and presented the Faith Formation Initiatives. The initiatives were well received but tweaked slightly. Below are the old initiatives and the modified new ones:

Old:

1. Provide faith sharing resources for singles, families, and family groups
2. Implement processes for recruiting and retaining lay leaders
3. Develop a catechetical plan for the lifelong faith formation needs of all parishioners, including the school

New:

1. Provide faith sharing resources for singles, families, and family groups
2. Implement processes for recruiting, forming, placing, and retaining lay leaders
3. Implement a catechetical plan for the lifelong faith formation needs for all parishioners

The emphasis is inclusiveness between the church and school, so all feel welcome. Tina said the relationship between the parish and the school is, right now, the most cooperative it has ever been.

Tom will be going to Marshalltown on March 9th for the Archdiocese Deaconary meeting. On the agenda is the K-8 Religion Curriculum and the plans to have school and parish curriculum streamlined. We are already doing this at St Cecilia, and this will further help foster a closer relationship with the school.

Among the other ministries discussed was the St Cecilia Women's Group. This group has raised the possibility of several ministries, including a cooking ministry. The suggestion is to have an open night once a week, perhaps on Wednesday night, when all can come to the church for a meal. The government guidelines for cooking on site will have to be checked; generally, if we are not charging for the food, we are allowed to cook on site.

The discussion was then moved to the looking at the Comprehensive Catechetical Plan goals.

The first goal:

Faith Formation opportunities nurture a spirit of contemplation and reflection.

Objectives :

- To offer, on a regular basis, retreats and retreat-like experiences that reflect the needs and schedules of various age groups.
- To teach and help parishioners experience various methods of prayer.
- To increase accessibility to, and participation in the Liturgy and Sacraments.

This is a goal identified for the community. The strategies through which it can be implemented in the community can be as specific as offering programs like Alpha and 'Living the Eucharist' which is a program that is like a retreat with a small group element to it. Deacon Alan is looking into this program.

Adoration at the Burke Chapel is something we are doing well here at St. Cecilia.

One way we could increase participation in the programs offered by St Cecilia is to schedule retreats or missions at a specific time every year. This would help parishioners plan in advance to set time aside for such events.

Father said in some parishes during Lent all church councils meetings were put on hold so that all can participate in faith formation. Such a practice would be very beneficial when planing to invite guest speakers, and in increasing attendance at other formation activities like retreats.

Father also said we need to make our liturgy as accessible as possible. For instance, he wondered how many people are not coming to church because there is no sign language interpreter available. We need to make an effort to discover what the needs of our parishioners and how are we can make our church accessible to them in terms of liturgy.

These strategies will take time and effort to implement, usually about 2 -3 years.

Final prayer was led by Tom.

Meeting adjourned: 8:37pm

Next FFC meeting will be on February 10th, 2015

Opening prayer - Anna

Closing prayer - Claire

Respectfully submitted by Rosie Stanley