

# Faith Formation Council Minutes

Oct. 10, 2017

## Attendance:

FFC Chair	Joe Baumgarten	Absent
FFC Vice Chair	Paula Gallt	Absent
FFC Meeting Minutes	Darcie Tallman	Present
FFC Member	Melissa Bowker	Present
FFC Member	Elin Herrman	Present
FFC Member	Sarah Mansell	Present
Pastor	Fr. Jim Secora	Absent
Deacon	Deacon Charles Bernhard	Present
Director of Faith Formation	Katie Patrizio	Present
Director of Youth Ministry	Anna Steele	Present
Coordinator of Middle School Youth Ministry	Zekiel Mientkiewicz	Present
Coordinator of Elementary Faith Formation	Jacob Brancaleon	Present
School Board Liaison	Kari Kellen	Present

## Opening

- Katie opened with prayer
- Meeting minutes approved

## Faith Formation Commission

Questions were posed about the structure and function of the Faith Formation Commission. A discussion followed that addressed such things as the purpose of FFC, the history and how it's functioned in the past, and ideas for enhancing the commission. The following points summarize the discussion.

- FFC has been advisory. Members are able to share with parishioners the work of faith formation for the parish. In addition, as parishioners, staff can use the members to help brainstorm and gain a different perspective. FFC can serve as a think tank.
- FFC oversees the catechetical plan.
- Katie described her plan:  
What's the mission of the Church? To go, make disciples baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
She views the FFC functions by asking the following questions when making a decision: Is this making disciples well? Is it the best way to use resources/define our focus? How can we do it better?
- Peter recommended that we should transform our FFC into more of an EC small group where the members spend more time in prayer. The idea is if we want this to happen in

the parish, we should experience it. In addition, we can multiply ourselves better because we are coming to be more like what we want in the parish.

- Katie believed we could do an EC small group model within each monthly meeting. A large part of the meeting would be comprised of the small group prayer component. We would then shrink the business portion. Some of this could be done via email outside of the meeting.
- The members also discussed the benefits of hearing visioning updates from a staff person each month.
- Questions were asked about the necessity of having all FFC staff in attendance.
- In Summary, the following were discussed as possibly ways to enhance FFC meetings:
  - Transform the meeting into more of an EC small group.
  - Business portion would be done faster
  - More visioning updates from staff
  - Include an update from our School Board representative on each agenda
  - Do all staff members need to attend every meeting?

## Reports

- **Faith Formation Report**
  - a. See the compiled staff report.
  - b. As an update, Jacob needs two more catechists on Monday night. Zeke needs two more catechists on Wednesday night.
- **Catholic School Board: Kari**
  - a. The School board is discussing the National standards and benchmarks for Catholic Schools.
- **Pastoral Council: Joe**
  - a. See report included in agenda.

## Enhance Sunday Assembly for Mass

- Katie believes this is primarily the jurisdiction of Fr. Jim and the Liturgy Committee, however, we can assist from an educational standpoint.
- Katie, Anna and Zeke shared things that are already being done from an educational standpoint:
  - 1% challenge – will get more out of Mass if we have a daily prayer life.
  - Encounter – monthly parish-wide adoration opportunity
  - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – focuses on the Liturgy and prayer life with our children.
  - Children’s adoration – this will be started.

- Middle School – the 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum focuses on the Mass, Edge closes with students going to adoration, in Edge, there is a large emphasis on the sacraments.
- High School – key to vocations is prayer and silence – emphasize adoration.
- These things are currently being done. At a future meeting, we can discuss if there are other ideas that should be added.

### Opportunities from the Archdiocese of Dubuque

- The parish is already advertising the Strong Catholic Marriage Conference, Youth Jam, and National Catholic Youth Conference.
- More information about the Retreat Day for Adults Diverse-Abilities and Beauty in Christ will be sought. They will be advertised at some level.

### Family Matters e-newsletter

- We will advertise it the parish's Lets Connect e-newsletter for a couple of weeks.

### Future Agenda Items

- Working with the Hortons to offer programming for parents during faith formation a couple times during the year as a joint effort with St. Cecilia and St. Thomas.
- Discuss if/how our parish can support caregivers of loved ones with dementia.

### Closing

- Prayer
- Next meeting Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. in the St. Louis Room.
- Adjourned 8:35 p.m.
- Respectfully submitted by Darcie Tallman