

Faith Formation Commission Minutes

October 7, 2015

- Opened with Prayer at 6:30 PM
- In attendance were Nancy Phillips (chair), Amalia Martin, David Sullivan, Linda Haptonstall, Tom Gray.

REPORTS

- Nancy's report: talked to Jason Swager about the My Parish app and talked to Father Jim about a parish retreat.
- Brigitte gave the report about the parish council meeting: Parish picnic went well; confession time added for Thursday evenings and Wednesdays after mass; new parishioners dinner talks by the staff/committee leaders are too long, need to keep them short (welcome committee is addressing this issue)
- The Soul on Fire retreat needs volunteers. Cursillistas have been asked to provide meals.
- The Spanish prayer meetings on Friday are going well and addressing issues of: Low understanding of Catholic faith, the need for better faith formation, the need for better understanding of the sacraments.

OLD BUSINESS

- Tom brought up the need to help parishioners get connected with the resources we have in the parish for faith formation. How do we make these resources more visible and available?
- The idea for a Sunday school approach of having faith formation classes before/after masses on Sunday might be problematic because of limited parking. We are already getting complaints from neighbors about spillover. Having people stay for mass and class might cause further problems.
- Child care would also be an issue, although holding multigenerational classes would alleviate that. It might still be an issue. We should get more people certified for Safe Parish.
- Nancy has sent a request to the technology committee to get metrics on the My Parish app usage, so we can evaluate its impact. We need to renew our license for the year, but the cost is an issue.
- The faith formation commission will be the driver behind the My Parish app, the technology committee is focused on the parish website.
- Getting information to the app and website is proving difficult because the effort is doubled. We need to see if the technology committee can provide a means of single-sourcing content that can be pushed to web and app.

NEW BUSINESS

- We discussed creating a weekly Wednesday night multigenerational faith formation study that would be similar to what the Hispanic community is doing on Friday nights.
- We could do a trial run as a single event sometime during Lent.
- Linda showed us several books from the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New

Evangelization (Published by Our Sunday Visitor) that can be resources for the material we would use for the meetings. Linda will be using one of these booklets for teaching during Advent.

- Linda told us that to get the Wednesday night classes going, we need to make a proposal to Father Jim (cc Linda). The proposed classes would be Wednesdays 6:00 to 7:30 pm with teaching time approximately 1 hour. The proposal needs to address nursery and preschool child care. We should write the proposal in our next meeting (Dec).
- We need to develop by-laws for the commission. Diane Moran may have a set of by-laws already, we need to check with her to see.
- We need to check (or address) in by-laws what to do about commission members who don't attend. Should they be replaced?
- Linda reminded us that all faith formation commission members should be involved in a faith formation event, e.g., Scripture study.
- Next full meeting scheduled for December 2 at 6:30 PM.
- Closed with prayer at 7:44PM.