

Report to Faith Formation Committee

Highlights of the Past Month:

1. There was a marvelous Dinner and Discussion a couple of weeks ago with a marvelous group of people, all centered around the womb-to-tomb faith development of our SJN community. Our ministries are in very good hands!
2. As Faith Formation and Sacramental Registration moved online, there has been a surge of e-mails and calls to all of us, not to mention people stopping in. (I was just interrupted, in fact, while typing this, by somebody stopping in because of difficulty registering online.)
 - a. There have been issues with the registration site, particularly with the final step that leads to billing. The critical part is that the timing overlaps our registration deadline (8/31) and the enactment of a significant late fee. We will work with families on this, and we continue to work with TADS (our registration site) on this as well.
 - b. Mary R. handles over 90% of this communication, and she represents SJN as *Church* so wonderfully. Thank you, Mary!
3. Even with the registration hiccups, we are ahead of where we were this time last year. As of midafternoon on this perfect last day of August, here's where we are:
 - [806 individual kids]*
 - Clusters (gr. 1-12): 58
 - Family Taught (gr. 1-12): 124
 - Sunday School: 72
 - Good News: 263
 - Teen Christian Community: 202
 - Adapted Formation: 14
 - [pending registrations (gr. 1-12): 32]
 - Preparing For...*
 - First Reconciliation: 89
 - First Eucharist: 88
 - Confirmation: 126
4. The "Lectio:Eucharist" Bible Study ends 8/31-9/1, and it has been a fantastic ten-week series. I highly recommend this to absolutely anyone and everyone, but especially people who have bellybuttons. That particular set will really benefit from this....

Preview of the Next Month:

1. "Introduction to Scripture" series (3 weeks) begins September 14.
2. That which we affectionately call "Regular Bible Study" starts up again October 5-6.
3. Formed.org will begin to be promoted more widely.

Other Items of Interest:

1. I did the annual presentation of "Faith Formation Highlights" to the Parish Council at their annual retreat on August 21. See the next page for the gist of what I said. I was all glowing about y'all (Committee and Staff).

Issues/Concerns for FFC Discussion:

1. -----

Annual “Faith Formation Intro” To the Parish Pastoral Council ~ August 21, 2016

- Brief Review
 - “Resurrected” the FFC, who met ten days ago for Dinner & Discussion with the FF staff; great passion and energy and putting the pieces together of the vision of FF at SJN and how to reach that. It’s a brand new Committee, and that was just the third time they’d met, and it’s exciting.
 - Lisa Stoll, Terri Wong, Niki Rudolph, Nikki Dalzell, Bob Gerads, Brad Neuman, & Joe Raasch???
 - Said farewell to Mary Brezinski in Elementary Faith Formation after six years; hired Lynn Mayer, smooth transition, already closely collaborating with a number of staff members to get things rolling in a good direction for the coming year of FF and SP
 - Subscribed to an online resource library called Formed, available at Formed.org. We will make the access code available to the parish, and once in, there are Catholic e-books, movies, audio resources, and multi-week programs including the Eucharist program we are in the midst of for the Summer Bible Study, which has been phenomenal.
 - We’ve moved Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation Registration online for the first time ever through a company called TADS. In terms of numbers, we are about 30-40 percent ahead of where we were at this same time last year. So it was either bringing the late fee back (which we didn’t have last year as we’d always had before), or moving Registration online has met a parents’ desire.
- Goals
 - The energizing and “stepping-stone words” of the day at the Faith Formation Committee and Staff “Dinner and Discussion” were:
 - Engaging
 - Relevant
 - Alive
 - Parents
 - Committee members are speaking this way.
 - Staff members are speaking this way.
 - Staff are looking ahead at the coming year and the pressing needs of what they need to do to get it all ready and get it up and running.
 - At the same time they’re really looking at everything in terms of the relationships that are built within and between the ministries.
 - In the midst of that I think they—we—will find good support in the FFC as that group looks beyond the day to day tasks and keeps the vision afloat.
 - There will be this built-in assistance in evaluating ministries, whether the Faith Formation programs, adult opportunities, summer youth ministries, and so on.
 - We’re also looking forward to close staff collaboration; e.g., Catechist Training, greater integration with Adapted Formation....