

SJN Faith Formation Committee Meeting Minutes, January 8, 2019

Present:

Nick Esch	Jen Sherman	Dan Wahl	Terri Wong	Pat Howard
Mike Meirink	Patricia Ogbeide-Ihama		Father Doug Ebert	

Absent: Bob Gerads Erin Swift

Pre-meeting: Joint Council Committee dinner & updates

Stewardship builds on 3 Pillars: Encounter, Hospitality, and Appreciation

- 1) Opening Prayer –
 - a. Prepared by Terri, read by Patricia
- 2) Introductions – All (10 min.)
- 3) Book Discussion (Chapters 1 – 3) – All (15 min.)

‘A Devotional Journey into The Mass’, by *Christopher Carstens*

 - a. Door of the Church – as Jesus is the door / access to the Father
 - b. The Collect takes on meaning – priest offering the prayers of the people
 - c. Sign of the Cross – symbolism with the tree of life
 - d. Conversation with God through prayer
 - e. Mystagogical catechesis – leads from the outward sign to an encounter with inward reality. Sacramental signs
- 4) Staffing Update – Pat Howard (10 min.)
 - a. Michael Ottman has left (effective January 11) using his time to work with the staff for a smooth transition.
 - b. Pat has contacted potential candidates and now released the job opening for applicants within the diocese.
 - c. In the interim volunteers are being rotated to facilitate Michael’s remaining sessions and cover set up and tear down.
- 5) Ministry Updates – Liaison reports (keep it brief-highlights) (15 min)
 - a. Jen – Initial contact made with Tonya
 - b. Nick – Worked with Michael prior to his leaving, Edge night (middle school) is covered going forward, syllabus is complete for balance of year – approval of talks and activities requires staff review and approval.
 - c. Terri – Working with Pat, adult formation is planned out for balance of year.
 - d. Erin – Has contacted Theresa(s). Faith formation is now available for children with special needs. They meet once a month with both children and parents.

***Forming disciples of Jesus Christ through lifelong formation
centered on the Word of God, the sacraments, and the life of the Church.***

- 6) Registration Notes – TAD Testing Experience (10 min)
 - a. Three responses plus the Faith Formation staff reviewed the site
 - b. Programing issues identified
 - c. Pat reviewed the most recent timeline for site updates, additional testing, and go live dates aligned with the upcoming spring registration.

- 7) **Catechist Invitation** – Brainstorm ideas to retain Catechists and invite others: these will be sifted and developed as appropriate (30 min)
 - a. Include invite at registration that links to sign up genius
 - b. Catechist encouragement plans
 - c. Appreciation & enrichment time
 - i. Learning – Reflection – Spiritual Growth
 - ii. Mid-term appreciation event sponsored by the committee
 - d. Additional preparation meeting(s) prior to the start of the new year
 - e. Add an ice breaker to the beginning of training
 - f. Remove barriers for concerned persons on knowledge limitations
 - g. Safety net – team teaching
 - i. Assistant position / shadowing to bring in additional talent
 - ii. Shadow – high school students – volunteer hours eligibility
 - iii. College students in fields of education, marketing, public speaking..
 - h. Extend an invitation to parishioners attending adult studies – Bible, Catechesis, Emmaus, RCIA
 - i. Provide an intro to catechesis course
 - i. Testimonials at Masses by current instructors
 - i. Notes that can also be used in print in a flyer – reflect and evaluate
 - j. Social media, bulletin notice, ministry fair
 - k. Hand out invitation flyers and give a brief friendly greeting / invitation to parents waiting in the pick-up lane for their children
 - l. Retention:
 - i. Build on the current program in effect
 - ii. Minimum preparation, easy to understand and facilitate materials

- 8) Next meeting scheduled: Tuesday March 12th.

- 9) Closing prayer

Handouts: Opening Prayer, TADS Testing, Registration Process & Timeline