



Faith Formation Committee November 12, 2019 – Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jen Sherman, Terri Wong, Julie Larson, Nick Esch, Ron Bisek

Absent: Erin Swift, Dan Wahl, Pat Howard, Michaela Schaff

Opening Prayer: Nick

Welcome and Intros: Nick introduced Julie Larson as a new committee member. Welcome!

New Scribe needed: Nick reported that Michaela Andrews is no longer able to serve on our committee or as our Scribe due to other commitments. Jen agreed to serve as Scribe.

2019/2020 Attendance Recap: At the time of the meeting, enrollment K-12 was reported to be 665 students, but often we have new students join well into the school year. Our enrollment so far is 44 students fewer than last year.

- There was discussion about enrollment trends in the past several years and how this may coincide with SJN membership numbers along with the population of students in the Eagan area in these age ranges.
- The group was interested in a more specific breakdown: Are certain programs down more? What are the Sunday School numbers as they seem low compared to years past? Are there modifiable factors at play (cost, etc)?

Preface, Chapter 1-2 Review– ‘Jesus and the Church’: Thoughts were that though the book is formatted into a bullet point type format it seems to be "heavier" in content than last year's book (*A Devotional Journey Into the Mass*). Most of the discussion surrounded Evangelism and how the book suggested principles/actionable recommendations can be applied to our daily interactions. The group should read Chapters 3-5 for January's meeting.

Ministry Updates (Liaison Re-Assignments):

Nick > Pat H.

Jen > Michaela S

Julie>Tonya B.

Erin > Theresa R.

Dan > Theresa B.

*Update only provided by Dan for Theresa B (see below, page 3).

Stewardship Pillars: Discussion continued with Ron facilitating with ongoing brainstorming around:

- Hospitality – (Sunday nights especially?)
 - Caffeine and Christ – area for parents to hang out while Middle and High Schoolers are in class?

- Service: Ways to integrate service and social justice projects into each level of the Faith Formation curriculum in partnership with the Faith Formation staff.
 - Use ministries that are already active at SJN as there are many (Open Door, Blanket for Babes, Thanksgiving Baskets, etc, save pennies for Lent).

It was decided that our Stewardship Pillar Goal would be service-focused knowing that it will need to be in partnership with the Faith Formation Staff.

Suggested Goal (can be revised at the next meeting):

The Faith Formation Committee will work to facilitate adoption or continuation of a Social Justice/Service project within each Faith Formation program (Sunday School, Family Formation, Youth Formation RCIA, and Adult Formation) this year in collaboration with the SJN Faith Formation Staff.

Closing Prayer: Synod Prayer as suggested and provided by Fr. Ebert.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 6:30-9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Sherman

Faith Formation Committee/Staff Liaison Instrument

Committee Liaison reaches out to Staff by phone or e-mail several times per month to offer support and encouragement. For the purposes of this Instrument, Liaison connects with Staff by phone or in person.

FF Committee Member: Dan Wahl

Date: Nov 7, 2019

FF Team Member: Theresa Burdick

The Sunday Schools Classes take place during the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Sunday Mass. The age group is 3 – 5 year olds.

Class time includes lectionary based discussion / teaching activities when age appropriate. Bible stories provide additional teaching moments on Sundays when the readings are not at this age level. Time is also set aside learning songs that are shared with the congregation twice a year.

This ministry is fully staffed. Theresa is assisted by 2 adults and 15 high school students. 2 persons are assigned to each teaching team (class). Attendance averages 11 students during the 8 AM Mass and 32 students during 10 AM Mass with 1 class at 8 AM and 4 classes at 10 AM respectively.

Currently the ministry is able to accomplish the weekly plans with the children without any obstacles.

Theresa would like to grow this children's ministry and open to ways to increase the attendance. There are flyers throughout the building, in the day care area, and pre-school families are being contacted. Program cost to families may be a factor, though at this time any change would be for next year. Children entering the program during the year receive a prorated rate.

Upcoming events:

- November – Service project – children bring in canned goods for the Thanksgiving Open Door food donation
- December – Prelude singing at the 10:00 AM Mass (All children)
- December 15 – Children are encouraged to bring a toy for Mary's Place. The event takes place at Theresa's home (complete with Christmas decorations and a visit by Santa)

