

MEETING DETAILS

Description: Family and Community Life Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2019

Time: 7:15 PM

Location: Social Hall

Chair: Steve Chojnacki

Members Present: Teresa Klippen, Bernadette Vitullo, Lona Wacker, Deb Mason, Mickey Custodio (PPC Liaison), Lisa Okoneski (staff liaison), Wendy Ashbridge (staff liaison)

Members not Present: none

Steve Chojnacki continues to actively search for new committee members and has asked for help from staff in this endeavor.

Agenda Item 1... Ministry Updates

Long Range Plan Focus Area: Parishioner Involvement, Communication

Short Term / Current Year Goal/Objective(s): Discuss current state of ministries and address any needs or concerns

- **New Parishioner Welcoming**

The members contacted new parishioners who had joined the parish in the last year and invited them to the Youth Room after the 8, 10, and noon Masses on Sunday, November 3. There were donuts, snacks and beverages as well as committee members present to socialize and make those present feel welcomed by the parish. It was very well-received with 14 new parishioners attending, some staying for quite some time for conversation. New parishioner packets were available if needed as well as registration forms.

It was also New Parishioner Registration the following weekend in the cantina. Lisa Okoneski reported that there were 9 new signups, and these will be included in the next Welcoming event.

Future events for welcoming will likely include the Saturday 5:00 Mass and Sunday 5:30 Mass as well.

ACTION: Bernadette Vitullo and New Parishioner Welcoming group will contact and do a brief check-in with those who attended the event on Nov. 3.

- **Wit and Wisdom 55+**

There was much discussion about this group, particularly due to Rozann Reyerson stepping down from her leadership role. The group has undergone some changes over the last year, largely due to their desire to have more control over their direction. Rozann was instrumental in helping with that change. Numbers are down at their events, and it was discussed how we might recruit some younger, more active members.

Lisa Okoneski and Wendy Ashbridge, staff who work closely with this group, talked about how there is a lot of competition, namely places like the Eagan Community Center that have a full list of activities for seniors; there are events hosted by senior living communities as well. There is also an issue with many of our older parishioners not

wanting to drive at night, so events like their dinners were tried as luncheons. September's lunch was canceled due to lack of signups.

Another issue when attending off-site events is the cost of transportation. A school bus is not ideal, and coach costs can be high so a minimum number of attendees is very important.

It was discussed that perhaps some of these events could be advertised to other parishes like St. Thomas Becket or St. Joe's. Perhaps events could be rotated through different parishes to increase attendance and incorporate others in the planning.

It was decided that after the Christmas luncheon, the Wit and Wisdom group will "take a break" for a few months and regroup and reassess.

In order to increase membership, the idea was discussed of either Donut Sunday sponsorship by the group itself to provide visibility or a holding a Senior Fair with tables containing information of interest to our older parishioners (e.g., health issues, pastoral care, etc.).

The future of this group depends on finding the right people with the desire to keep things moving forward.

ACTION: Lisa Okoneski will contact Lori Hannasch on staff about the possibility of holding a Senior Fair and what that might involve.

- **Summer Sizzle**

Deb Mason reported wanting to reach out now to the youth and determine their role in the parish picnic next summer. She also wants to ensure that parish policies are discussed and determined very soon regarding Essential 3 for volunteers and especially credentialing for cashiers (e.g., background check, credit check, etc.). There have been issues in the last several years of unclear policy and late decisions in this regard that impacted planning and volunteer engagement.

ACTION: Steve Chojnacki and Deb Mason will schedule a meeting with Michaela Schaff, youth minister on staff, to discuss youth involvement at the Summer Sizzle and at the parish in general.

Agenda Item 2... Goals/Objectives

Long Range Plan Focus Area: Parishioner Involvement, Communication

Short Term / Current Year Goal/Objective(s): Brainstorm and/or plan upcoming initiatives

- **Stewardship Fair Follow-up**

ACTION: Steve Chojnacki will ensure that stewardship lists are distributed to ministry leads with the desire to have contacts completed by Thanksgiving.

Mickey Custodio, the PPC liaison for the committee, went over again the Pillars of Stewardship and how the committee plays a role in their incorporation. Much of what the FCL ministries do in many ways already includes the pillars at their foundation.

Re: Formation, it was thought that some of the ministries' events could incorporate events already happening at church. For example, Wit and Wisdom could sponsor a social event after attending Stations of the Cross during Lent.

Re: Service, the ministries could plan a charitable outing (to Feed My Starving Children, for example).

ACTION: Re: The Prayer pillar, Steve Chojnacki will send a message to ministry leads suggesting they incorporate the Stewardship Prayer into each of their get-togethers if they don't already.

- **Donut Sunday (repeated section from last meeting, still in progress)**

Discussion was held about actively promoting to parish ministries the idea of sponsorship of Donut Sunday.

It was also discussed that there could be an ongoing projector display during Donut Sunday not only showing upcoming events but showing what recently occurred. Future events are often advertised in the bulletin or elsewhere but the parish doesn't necessarily hear any follow-up afterward (e.g., how many attended, what happened, photos from event, etc.).

It could also be a place to reinforce/remind the parish about the stewardship initiatives (pillars, etc.)

ACTION: Steve Chojnacki will prepare communication to SJN ministries regarding Donut Sunday sponsorship and present to staff.

A tentative reservation was placed on the calendar to have all the Marriage ministries present at Donut Sunday the weekend of March 14/15, about six weeks before one of the parish's marriage events, the Cana Dinner.

ACTION: Steve Chojnacki will communicate with the marriage groups and staff to coordinate this event.

Agenda Item 3... Upcoming Events/Ministry Opportunities

Long Range Plan Focus Area: Parishioner Involvement, Communication

Short Term / Current Year Goal/Objective(s): Event awareness and call for volunteers

- **Wit and Wisdom Christmas Luncheon**

This event will be held on December 13 after the noon Mass. Volunteers are welcome.

- **Cana Dinner**

This event will be held on May 9, 2020. Committee members are actively being sought to help plan and execute this event. The initial planning meeting date is still being decided.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m.