

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LIFE COMMISSION

I met with Wendy Ashbridge and Lisa Okoneski (staff liaisons to FCL Commission) on May 12. We discussed our future roles in "jump-starting" this commission and will send out correspondence to the ministry leaders, in particular asking if everyone plans to continue in their current roles. More to come as things develop. Below are the updates from the various ministries which make up the FCL Commission.

Steve Chojnacki

MINISTRY UPDATES

APRIL 2015

DONUT SUNDAY

Donut Sunday is going to be held almost every weekend. It is currently scheduled for 42 of the 52 weekends through June of 2016.

*Donuts are served at the Sunday morning Masses, there have been large crowds and the people who are coming are very enthusiastic about having donuts on a frequent basis.

*Cookies are served after the Saturday and Sunday evening Masses. There is not a large turnout for either of these Masses. We are hoping as time goes on and word of mouth spread on this more people will attend.

*We will evaluate the evening Masses as summer goes on and make a decision about having cookies after them throughout summer and starting back up in the fall.

*We have purchased donuts through Puffy Star Donuts in Eagan, they deliver them to us on Sunday mornings at 7 am. The people coming on Sundays are very excited about these donuts and are commenting that we now have good donuts to choose from. Puffy Star advertises on the back of our parish bulletin as well.

*Sign-ups are done on line through sign-up-genious and Tiffany Rupp is handling this.

ADOPTION MINISTRY

At this point we were contacted by an outside group about the possibility of having a meeting in the future at SJN about kids that are available for adoption but are currently in the foster care system. These meetings have already been held at neighboring churches and there has been a good turnout. More to come as information becomes available.

500 CARD PARTIES

*500 card Party meets one Friday evening a month, from September through May. Dates have already been set for the upcoming year through May of 2016.

* Set up and tear down are coordinated with our maintenance department

*There is good attendance for the event, and they provide snacks and beverages by taking turns signing up for them

FAMILY FUN MORNINGS

Lenten Morning

*Lenten Morning was held on Saturday February 21, 2015, it was a very cold morning, with temps below zero

*The cost for the event was \$5.00 per child, 23 reservations were made and paid for and 20 children showed up the day of the event

*We opened with a Lenten Prayer, and the meaning of Lent was discussed

*The video of the 3 trees was shown

*Kids made wooden mosaic crosses to take home

*And Hot Cross buns were made for a morning snack, with fruit punch, coffee and orange juice

*Both Fr Ebert and Fr. Howe, stopped in to say hello to the families that attended

*after the event we posted pictures on the bulletin board in the hallway for people to see what a fun time was held by all.

*response back from people who attended was very positive

*emails were taken from all attendees so they could be notified in advance of any family events being held in the future

Advent Morning

Advent morning is currently scheduled on December 5th, 2015. More information to follow as event approaches.

PARISH PICNIC

*Parish Picnic is being held on Sunday July 12, 2015

*Meetings are currently being held, and led by Picnic Chair Mary Rousseau

*Mary Rousseau gathers the heads of the different areas of the picnic committee and organizes the event

*Fr Ebert has asked us to start thinking of the future for the Parish Picnic, with the possibility of turning it in to a 2 day event, with music, food and a beer tent on Saturday evening and a picnic and games on Sunday. This is something he would like to take place in the relatively near future.

*This year there will be a few new things with the picnic to generate some income to help cover the expenses and possibly turn some profit as well. New events include a Beer tent,

cotton candy, and there will be a minimal charge for Bingo. There will also be alms boxes near the food to encourage people to make a donation.

*Meetings are ongoing throughout the majority of the year

A-Z BEGINNING BOOKENDS (35+ SINGLES MINISTRY)

*Our first event was held on Thursday April 23rd, 2015 in the social hall

*Even though we received some calls and emails only 2 people showed up

*It was decided with the 2 people that showed up that we need to keep scheduling events and people will start coming.

*Our next event will be held on Sunday May 17th, after the 6 pm Mass. There will be an area in the social hall where pizza will be served for the singles and it will be another informal gathering to meet some new people and share their expectations of what they would like to see in a social group.

*One suggestion was made that the Sunday evening format is a nice way for people to attend Mass and then have dinner or do something after Mass together

*This is a group that is for companionship and friendship, it is not a dating group

*This event will be advertised in the bulletin, as well as the Family Life bulletin board, and on email blasts

WIT AND WISDOM

Dinners

*Dinner was held on Thursday March 12th, 2015 in the social hall

*Roast Beef dinner was served

*tickets were \$12.00 per person

*54 tickets were sold

*entertainment was provided by Lyndon Peterson the One Man Band

*Next Dinner is scheduled for Friday June 12th, 2015 in the social hall

*upcoming dinners are scheduled for September, December, March and June

Board Meetings

*The Wit and Wisdom board meets quarterly, and is scheduled on Mondays after they finish counting collections from the weekend

*There are approximately 10 board members

*The board members discuss their dinners, newsletters, outings, and brown bag lunches, as well as events that are relevant to seniors in the parish and surrounding community

Newsletters

*Newsletters are sent out quarterly

*Next newsletter due out to parishioners in June

Day trips and Outings

*A Day trip is planned for Friday May 15th. People will board a bus at SJN at 10 am with Fr. Howe who will be leading a tour of St. Peter's in Mendota. The day will consist of a tour of St. Peter's followed with Fr. Howe celebrating Mass and then have a brown bag lunch. Following lunch people will board the bus and continue on to the Cathedral of St. Paul, where Fr. Howe's father will lead a conduct a tour of the Cathedral, people will re-board the bus and head back to SJN by 2 pm.

Brown Bag Lunches

*Brown Bag Lunches are usually held here at SJN after the noon Mass on a Friday
*There was a Brown Bag Lunch that was held at Faithful Shepherd School after noon Mass, but it was poorly attended. The staff and students at Faithful Shepherd wanted to host as a thank you and come and see our school. This is going to be addressed at future meetings to see how we can accommodate awareness of Faithful Shepherd in the future.
*Brown Bag Lunches that are held at SJN are fairly well attended, especially when one of the priests attend.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

Marriage In Christ

*Marriage in Christ dates are set for 5 -6 weeks on Thursday evenings starting in February 2016 and continuing into March 2016. More information as it becomes available.

Marriage Enrichment Events

*Marriage events are going to be held several times during the year with speakers and refreshments for couples of all ages.
*A marriage event was held in April after weekend Masses with only a few people in attendance. Different days and times will be scheduled to see when is best to meet the interested people's needs.

Cana Dinner

*Cana Dinner was not held this year, however it will be held next year on Saturday February 13th, 2016. Couples will have a Mass and wedding vow renewal followed by a dinner and entertainment in the social hall.
*More information to follow

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Fish Dinners/Easter Egg Hunt

*Fish Dinners were held on Friday March 6th, and Friday March 20th, 2015.
*Fish Dinners are schedule for March 4th, and March 18th, 2016

*Easter Egg Hunt was on Saturday April 4th, weather was nice so it was held in the backyard area of SJN. Large crowds were here for the event. Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday April 26th, 2016.

Knights of Columbus Other Events

- *Tootsie Roll weekend was weekend of April 25th, & 26th, 2015
- *Tail gate Trick or Treat is schedule for Saturday October 24th, 2015
- *Pancake Breakfast is schedule for Sunday November 15th, 2015

SEW FOR GRACE

*Sew for Grace meets the 2nd Saturday of the month from September to June. Dates are scheduled, and group meets in the social hall.

YOGA DEVOTION

*Yoga Devotion is held Thursday mornings and Thursday evenings at SJN. Good attendance at both sessions.

*Calendar dates are scheduled through June 2016

MAY 2015

DONUT SUNDAY

Donut Sunday will be held 3 weekends in May. Cookies are served after the 5 pm Saturday Mass and after the 6 pm Sunday Mass. Donuts are served after the 8 am, 10 am, and Noon Masses.

Starting in June, refreshments will be served from the cantina and not the social hall after the 6 pm Sunday Mass, hopefully encouraging people to stop by and grab a treat before they leave the building.

500 PARTY

500 card party was held on Friday May 15th. This was their last party of the season and will resume again in October for the year.

PARISH PICNIC

Parish Picnic is being held on Sunday July 12th, from 12 – 4.

Planning is in the works and all the volunteers are busily organizing the areas they have volunteered for.

The biggest changes this year are the additions of a beer garden, as well as a small charge for people who are choosing to play BINGO.

Fr. Ebert's long range plan is for the picnic to become a 2 day event, allowing our parish to see this as a community/ family event as well as a possible way to raise some much needed funds in the process.

Next picnic meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 3rd, 2015 at 7 pm.

A-Z BEGINNING BOOKENDS (35+ SINGLES MINISTRY)

This group is still in the developing stages. There was an initial information meeting on Thursday April 23rd.

Second gathering will be Sunday May 17th following the 6 pm Mass. Pizza will be served in the social hall after Mass is done. This will give interested parties a chance to visit and brainstorm on upcoming events for the group.

WIT AND WISDOM

Dinners

The next Wit and Wisdom dinner will be held on Friday June 12th in the social hall. Theme for the dinner is "All American Barbeque". The group will be playing BINGO.

Board Meetings

Quarterly board meeting was held on Monday May 4th, 2105 – 10 people were in attendance. Discussions were had on the following items:

- Recap of the last W & W dinner held in March, and the upcoming dinner in June
- Upcoming Newsletter due out in June

Wit and Wisdom Bus Trips and Outings

A day trip took place on Friday May 15th. The trip was led by Fr. Howe. 24 people went on the trip including Fr Howe. People gathered at SJN to check in and board the bus. The day consisted of a tour of St. Peter's in Mendota Heights, followed with Fr. Howe celebrating Mass, and then a brown bag lunch. Following the lunch at St. Peter's, people boarded a bus and headed to the Cathedral of St. Paul for a guided tour with Fr. Howe's father. People re-boarded the bus and returned to SJN around 3 pm. The general consensus of the trip was that it was a very informative and enjoyable day. People were excited to hear where they could go next. Cost for the trip was \$15.00 per person. The W & W group is very excited about going on bus trips to social venues as well as religious things in our community and the surrounding area.

Pre School

Another successful school year is coming to a close, end of the year celebrations and graduations will be held on Wednesday and Thursday May 20th, and 21st. Though it is sad to have the school year end our preschool summer camp will be starting up for 3 weeks in June and 3 weeks in July. Camp programs start on Tuesday June 9th and run Tuesday through

Thursday for 3 consecutive weeks and then again starting on July 7th and running Tuesday thru Thursday for 3 consecutive weeks as well.

Nursery

- Weekend nursery is available at all weekend Masses except Sunday at 6 pm.
- Friday School (our mom's day out program), just ended its school year session, and will start its summer Friday School program for the month of July.
- Monday Funday (our Monday hourly drop in program) will end on Monday May 18th and resume again for the school year on Monday September 14th.
- Parent's Night Out takes the month of June off and will start back up again on July 10th.

Sew for Grace

Sew for Grace will meet one more time in June for the year, then they will be taking the summer off and start back up again on September 12th.

Yoga Devotion

Yoga Devotion will end in May and start back up September 10th, 2015.

Calendar Dates

Scheduling day for SJN will be held on Wednesday May 27th. After that date I will provide a calendar by month of all the upcoming events for Family Life