

## Sacred Heart Faith Formation Board (FFB) Notes Tuesday, September 5, 2017

**Present:** Angela Anderson, Tammy Barry, Dan Jinguji, Mary Johnson, Laura Lavine, Chris Owens, Sue McNamara, Theresa Paul, Gladys Rice, Linhda Sagen.

**Mary** led us in the opening prayer, **Chris** brought snacks, and **Dan** led the closing prayer. *Introductions*

**FF Report: Theresa** – with every new pastor, there is a shift in programs. One change is to phase out the two year, older child sacrament program. Canon Law states that the parents decide when their children are ready (after age of reason -7 years old) to begin Sacrament Preparation. Teaching will occur at home with the parent(s) and family with resources and support from Theresa in the form of parent meetings and more as requested/needed. Last year's Sacrament class will finish up as is (catechist-led). A parent-led option from Our Sunday Visitor will be used and both parent & child will have books. Reconciliation will be taught in the first semester and Confirmation/First Eucharist during the second, reflecting the restored order. Sacrament Mass with the Bishop will occur on April 22, 2018. Discussion continues. The lesson can be broken down into smaller chunks for better understanding. It is hoped that the parent & child will take as much time needed to learn at their child's pace and not hurry if child is not ready. Children will still attend regular religious education classes. Catechists will use some lessons to reinforce the Sacrament preparation. Fr. Steve has said, "Faith is caught-not taught". They learn what they see at home living their faith with their families and what they see at Church. RCIC is for unbaptized children. Our regular program is like a spiral in that the concepts are reinforced and a little deeper understanding is achieved each year.

**Religious Education 101** (But call it something else!): Fr. Steve talked to the Parish Council about starting an adult session on reviewing the basics of the faith. Maybe a 2-3 week set of reflections with no more than about 12 people, and then break into smaller groups for discussion. In process...

**Parish Mission:** In the past have had during Advent or Lent. Theresa is looking now to select a speaker. She will confer with Fr. Steve.

**Children's Masses:** About once a month, at the 8:30 am Mass, the homily will be directed to the children. The older children will be Liturgical Ministers. Confirmed high schoolers can be Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors will be confirmed and capable. If not confirmed, opportunities are to be greeters, ushers and gift bearers.

**Children's Collection:** Starting in October, we will have a children's collection. All children can come forward at the offertory and put their contribution in a special container. The proceeds will purchase a designated project, such as an animal to help the poorest transform their lives. This is through the Catholic Relief Services. Children will be encouraged to bring up their money and put it in, even if just a penny. The bucket will be placed in the main basket and brought up at the Offertory. This will promote greater participation and sense of responsibility.

**RCIA:** Is returning to the parish and a team has been formed. Begins Wed., Sept. 27 in the Holy Family Room.

**Youth Group:** the Kick-Off BBQ is 6 pm at Sunnyside Park, Wed Sept 13 and includes the parents. Youth group meets on Wednesday evenings and there will be other offerings/events at other times that teens can attend.

**Mass Bags:** Small handmade 'quiet activity' bags were sewn by Linhda Sagen and Robin Saam for young children to keep occupied during Mass. They will be put out soon at the main Church entrance and in the Family room. The idea is that they are returned after Mass for the next child to use. Really cute and much needed! Thank you Ladies!!

**Bookmarks for Hymnals:** Linhda also made a sample of a 3-ribbon bookmark to go into the spine of our hymnals. Will order materials and she and others will cut out and sew together. Dark colors will be chosen.

**Small Groups:** Explained what we had done in the past, and asked for ideas for this year. Another early morning option was requested. Members will look over the questionnaire sheets and email feedback before the end of the month.

**Group Picture:** At the next meeting (October 3) we will take a group picture for the website.