

Faith Formation Board Meeting Minutes

Sept. 6, 2022

In attendance: Kat Harris, Tammy Barry, L Heidenrich, Betty Clover, Jane Hommel, Wendy McCann, Cory Dixon, Fr. Steve, Linea Johnson.

Faith Formation Report. Doing well with Catechist recruitment. At least one teacher per class; working towards two. Will announce again this weekend at SH; Fr. Paul will announce at STM. Direct asks are sometimes more fruitful but Cory, being new, could use some help identifying good candidates.

New curriculum purchased from St. Mary's Press. It is rooted in the Bible and has full lesson plans along with alternate activities. Should make planning less stressful for catechists. No handouts or renewing subscriptions. It costs the same as we spent on the Gospel weeklies last year so it's an easy try.

Bible studies Sunday mornings. Tammy led the last four: Advent series, Lenten book series, Pivotal players by Bp. Barron. (First one was on Bible but not well liked.) Not traditional – scripture involved but it's not strictly reading from Bible. Varying length – 4-12 wks. Backroom of office not great place to meet. Could use TV in social hall between Masses and set up nursery for young children not in F.F.? Do small chunks (4-8 weeks), so people can jump in/out; no “homework”. Bp. Barron has easy material. Tammy will facilitate.

Youth Group Report. Middle school camp went well. Four youth from SH. No evacuation needed! Youth and adults seemed to have a ball 😊. There was good faith development time and great activities.

Linea held a planning meeting with some parents and gathered feedback from others. They decided to continue with Sunday evenings, with Sept. 18 for kickoff. Also asked for youth Adoration nights. Possibly All Saints/Halloween weekend for the first. Could use help finding someone to play live music for these.

Mission trips not possible at the moment, but hopefully in the years to come we can bring them back.

F.F. Secretary. No applicants yet. We've posted it on our Facebook page, and shared to the Spanish community. Also, office at St. Thomas More. Could be ideal for an older student or the spouse of a student or faculty member. Change title to “assistant/coordinator” instead of “secretary?”

Hispanic Community Engagement. Good to start on the feast of **Our Lady of Guadalupe**. Las Posadas during Advent could be a fun activity. Need to ask Spanish-speaking community what they want to do.

Muriel Parra would like to do Adult Faith Formation for the Hispanic community. She worked as a DFF for many years. She has a vision for covering the fundamentals of the Catholic faith.

Think for the future. Cory asked board members to consider the following topics for future meetings:

Young Adult Group. Had Theology on Tap before COVID. Might start again. Getting a group that can be led by a young adult or two for fellowship and community.

Ways to engage St. Thomas More. Cory met with Fr. Paul. Cory is looking for suggestions for events, groups, mentorships, etc., to make connections. Kat suggested finals weeks care packs.

Ecumenism/Interreligious engagement. Doing service together, but could we learn more about each other? Not anything too heady, but just some discussions about our similarities and differences.