

St Therese Faith Formation Committee  
10-13-09 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Michelle Pellman, Tammy Badger, Nancy Seaman, Father Hal Barber, John Faundeen, Bridget Dahlin, Eric Schmidt, Doug Basche, Pat Starr, Karen Heiling, Sheila Conrads, Twyla Steinberger

Not Present: Mike McInerney, Barbara Lockwood, Cathy Anderson

Prayer – led by all using a prayer provided by Twyla.

Minutes – Approved as read.

Communication – Twyla encouraged all to read the Pastoral, Finance and Social Outreach Community notes on the St. Therese website.

Old Business – Twyla relayed that our Committee is still short one member. The strategy is to utilize the parish bulletin to advertise for this position. (**ACTION**) Sign-up Sunday did not yield any interest.

Michelle led the review of the parish survey, but first wanted to relay a big thank you to Ron Seaman and Twyla for all of their help pulling the draft together. We will be utilizing Monkey Survey, which offers a free service for up to 10 questions. We have 19 including demographics so a fee will be paid. Our goal for this meeting is to provide a close to final review of the questions and format. Once the edits from the meeting tonight are incorporated, a test group of not more than 10 parishioners will be used to ensure we haven't missed anything and none of the questions are confusing. We also hope to get a feel as to whether the survey is of an appropriate length. The group offered several suggestions related to expanding acronyms, minor typographical errors, and the ordering of the questions. Some questions added the fill-in box "Other" to allow for parishioner input. Word choice was discussed several times related to scale perimeters. The "Skip to Next Question" feature was discussed and endorsed letting participants jump to the next relevant question if the immediate section does not apply to their situation. The Committee agreed with Twyla's suggestion to work with Shirley Donnelly in gathering the members of the test group.

Doug relayed that the Adult Ministries Sub-Committee has contacted Dr. Chris Burgwald, the Diocesan Catechist, and Joe Rutton from O'Gorman Senior High who are willing to speak at St. Therese on various topics. Additional speakers are being sought. CDs can be loaned from the Diocese as an additional resource for us. Pat Starr relayed that perhaps Lent would a good time of year to kick-off some of these endeavors.

The Vocations Sub-Committee report was provided by Twyla. She and John are researching Catholic websites that focus on vocations such as [www.catholicovocations.org.au](http://www.catholicovocations.org.au), <http://www.sfvocations.com/>, <http://www.sfcatholic.org/vocations/default.aspx>, and the Sioux Falls Vocation Office. They have developed an outline of how the committee should be formed and are exploring ideas for specific programs. Some things to consider so far include keying on the following items:

- Deacon Dan Smith's ordination celebration.
- Sister Eileen O'Connor's Golden Jubilee on July 25th.
- The Year of the Priest.
- The Vocation Tree that the Sioux Falls Diocese plans for Religious Education Programs.

The Vocation Sub-committee plans to next meet the week of October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Bridget provided an update report on the Children's Ministries. A separate survey was sent out soliciting support for Totus Tuus because November is the deadline to sign up for the program. To date, around 60% of the surveys sent out have been returned which the FFC felt was a great response. Good interest was expressed for the event and Bridget is leaning towards holding it this year and then determining if it should be continued beyond 2010. Pat Starr made a motion expressing FFC support for the program for the summer of 2010 along with more marketing. Tammy seconded and it was passed unanimously.

The Youth Ministries report was provided by Eric. The new curriculum has started and the Confirmation retreat just occurred. The retreat had 100% attendance so the candidates ~~are~~ have all started their letter to the Bishop, selected their Saint name and had their interview with Father Hal. This is the largest Confirmation class – 32 – ever.

The middle school curriculum is going well based on teacher responses. The students appear to like it, also. High school enrollees have been participating more than other years. New faces have appeared each week. Twyla asked what about the number of middle school and high school enrollees. Eric indicated he would provide those (**ACTION**). November 15 starts the youth Masses at 6:00pm Sundays. Separating confirmation preparation from the Religious Education program has overall, gone well. Twyla asked if the Diocese has reviewed our curriculum plan yet. Eric responded that he has met with Chris Burgwald and had given him a copy of the fall youth group plans. Eric stated that he had not heard back from Chris. Twyla then asked Father what he had heard from Chris concerning the curriculum. Father said he had discussed the material with Chris and that Chris stated that the plans looked like good outlines, which is what they are, and that they would need some additional material to be successful. Father followed with that he had observed the Youth Nights on several occasions and confirmed that the additional material was being given through the teachings and extra explanations during activities. Twyla then asked if the same was done for the Confirmation program. Eric responded that it had not. This is mainly due to the fact that the Confirmation material is not formatted in the same way the Youth Group information is. Eric continued, that he had spoken to Chris about the material and format for Confirmation lessons and that Chris expressed that he liked the format and the idea of having sacramental preparation separate from Youth Group. Eric has agreed to give the plans to Chris when they are formatted and Chris has agreed to look over them

at that time. Pat asked if the Confirmation retreat participants got a “retreat” experience. Eric felt that the retreat experience was a good one for the students but hopes to continue to adapt and expand it in the future. Pat also asked about the small group training planned for the teachers. Eric held a session, but no one showed up so he is planning to do this throughout the year.

New Business – Twyla relayed that March 21, 2010 is the next Sign-Up Sunday which means the booklet will need to be modified.

Our next meeting is planned to focus upon Adult and Vocation Ministries. We are also scheduling this meeting to be a potluck dinner. Nancy Seaman volunteered to coordinate the menu through email (**ACTION**).

Closing Prayer led by Father Hal.

Next Meeting November 10, 6:00 pm - Note the time & the potluck dinner.