

St Therese Faith Formation Committee
11-10-09 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Michelle Pellman, Nancy Seaman, John Faundeen, Bridget Dahlin, Eric Schmidt, Doug Basche, Karen Heiling, Twyla Steinberger, Cathy Anderson

Not Present: Father Hal Barber, Tammy Badger, Pat Starr, Mike McInerney, Barbara Lockwood,

Prayer – led by Twyla with readings she selected.

Minutes – Eric Schmidt had two refinements submitted late due to his illness. The edits were included and re-sent to Shirley Donnelly to replace the original file sent previously. Eric moved to accept the refinements. Motion was approved unanimously. Twyla reminded members to get all edits to the recorder within one week of receiving the draft minutes.

Communication – Twyla Steinberger indicated that the October Pastoral Council minutes were still draft. Karen Heiling offered to read the draft notes. The draft report indicated 99 school age children are not enrolled in Religious Education at St. Therese nor attending school in the Sioux Falls Catholic School System. November 24th is the next Pastoral Council meeting.

Gathering Space Guidelines – Spirited discussion on the July 2009 updated guidelines that the Environment Committee completed. Cathy Anderson pointed out that some displays, like the CD-based presentation offered through the Diocese, would not meet the guidelines. Bridget Dahlin relayed that the new rules are just guidelines that aren't meant to be overly restrictive. Twyla wondered if maybe some items could reside in the Library area easier than in the gathering space. Eric believes that we just need to present our ideas for displays to the Environment Committee who he has had good interaction with. Eric pointed out that the Pastoral Council endorsed the guidelines.

Old Business – Twyla relayed that Sheila Conrads is resigning from the FFC due to commitments. **(ACTION)** Everyone on the FFC is to bring two names to the January meeting of possible new members.

Eric responded to an action from last month to provide Religious Education numbers. Grades 6-12 have 82 students enrolled. The attendance is running at 82% this year compared to 78% last year at this time. Overall, there were 15 more students last year. Between two and five non-enrolled are showing up weekly. Last year there were 16 signed up for Confirmation while 32 are this year. Doug Basche asked if we do an exit interview with the confirmation students. Eric relayed that we do not, but he will look

into that. Eric is trying to engage the post-confirmation students which has been a challenge, historically.

Parish Survey – Michelle Pellman reported that the survey has been formatted through the company Survey monkey. Twyla asked Doug to proof read the survey. Doug agreed to do that. Once his review is complete, Twyla will contact Shirley Donnelly to obtain 10 parishioner names for us to do a pre-test. The target period for the survey is January for the release and the expected wrap up towards the end of January. We have started paying the company when the formatting of the survey was done. The FFC needs to market the survey soon.

New Business – Doug Basche reported on Adult Ministries handing out a list of ideas for activities to address our adults. The ideas included resources, what St. Therese is currently doing, what other Sioux Falls parishes are doing, and Church history. Eric stated that many parishes do not have a formal adult ministry program. Karen suggested adding an end of life topic to the list of ideas as a topic to explore. Twyla suggested maybe choosing two or three activities as a way to kick-off Adult Ministries. Cathy thought that maybe once a month would be the right frequency for activities related to Adult Ministries. Twyla relayed that a good time to start a speaker or movie would be in September lining up to the school year. Bridget offered Lent as a good starting time, also. Michelle suggested the January/February time would be good to try the Diocese CD sales activity. **(Decision)** FFC agreed that the Adult Ministries should start the CD Sales now and then examine the survey results with a possible eye towards a Lent startup for a speaker or activity.

Twyla reported on the Vocations Ministries indicating that the group met last month and formulated a mission, vision, and charter for review. The FFC endorsed foundational statements for this sub-committee. Twyla indicated that we are looking to undertake four activities in the January-to-January timeframe and asked the FFC for guidance on the six possible topics sent out previously. Michelle thought engaging Deacon Dan would tie in well with the Year for the Priest theme Pope Benedict the XVI announced last July. Twyla explained the Vocations Tree concepts and materials. Karen felt we need to ensure this sub-committee addresses the laity. Eric agreed, saying that a balance is needed for religious life and laity vocations. **(Decision)** The Vocations Sub-Committee will focus on the following four items for its first year:

- Sr. Eileen O'Connor will be celebrating her Golden Jubilee on July 25th, 2010 at 11:00 am at Mount Marty Chapel in Yankton. The programming would be something to celebrate this occasion, as Sr. Eileen was the pastoral minister at St Therese for many years. We would combine it with some educational aspect about the religious life.
- Deacon Dan Smith will be celebrating his ordination into the priesthood on May 28th, 2010 in Aberdeen due to the remodeling of the Cathedral. He will be back in Sioux Falls on June 6th

to celebrate the 10:45 am Mass at St Therese. Dan considers St. Therese his home parish. The programming would be something to celebrate his ordination, combined with opportunities for parishioners to get to know Dan and that one of our parishioners is becoming a priest. It would also incorporate some educational aspect about the priesthood.

- Utilize vocationtree.com materials.
- Program with emphasis on the Laity

John Faundeen shared that contact has been made with the Serra organization whose sole mission is to serve the vocation needs of the Church. It is hoped that the Vocation Sub-Committee can leverage this organization in serving the vocation needs of the parish. An informational meeting on Serra will be held December 9th from 6:30-7:00 at St. Therese. Sam Nastase from St. Lamberts, will make the presentation. A notice will be placed in the bulletin as anyone in the parish is welcome to attend.

Closing Prayer led by all saying an Our Father.

Next Meeting January 12, 6:30 pm. No December meeting.