

St Therese Faith Formation Committee
4-14-09 Agenda

Members Present: Cathy Anderson, Barbara Lockwood, Sheila Conrads, Eric Schmidt, Bridget Dahlin, Twyla Steinberger, Fr. Hal Barber, Michelle Pellman

Not Present: Tammy Badger, Kay Ballard, John Faudeen, Karen Heiling, Mike McInerney, Pat Starr, Bill Van Roe.

- Prayer
- Minutes
Anderson moved, Dahlin seconded to approve March 2009 minutes as written. Motion carried.
- Communication
Pastoral council minutes have not yet been received. Finances continue to be an issue for the parish, therefore Faith Formation committee needs to be aware as plan for 2009-2010 budget.
- Old Business
 - **St Therese 5 Years Out – compilation**
Twyla finalized and distributed the FF committee 5-year goals.
 - **Yearly Action Plan**
Committee members agreed the plan was a great starting point, and would “work” the plan for a year, allowing for adjustments along the way.
 - **Budget – Ed Jakos**
Each finance committee member has been assigned to various committees and ministries.
Ed Jakos – Adult & vocations
Judy Meisinger – Religious Education
Julie Derner & Rick Weber – Youth
Ed Jakos had a scheduling conflict and couldn’t attend.
Steinberger noted the committee needed to establish a starting amount for Adult & Vocations ministries, since no budget precedence has yet been set. The committee agreed to submit \$300 for 2009-2010 Adult & Vocations ministries.
 - **Vice-chair and sub committee positions**
Pellman offered to Vice Chair the committee
Cathy Anderson volunteered to serve on the Adult Education subcommittee.

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- New Business

- **Children's Ministries – Bridget Dahlin**

Dahlin provided an overview of current Children's activities, goals for the coming year, and long-term goals for the parish regarding children's ministries.

- What's Happening Now

- **3-5 year olds – Liturgy of the Word.** 20 children currently enrolled in Liturgy of the Word (LOW). Curriculum is Image of God.
 - **K-5 Religious Education.** 80 students registered in Religious Education. These children attend either Sunday morning or Wednesday evening religious education classes. Curriculum is Faith in Life series. There are 23 students who are not registered in either Religious Ed or enrolled in Catholic schools – these 23 students come from 15 families who are registered in the parish.
 - **Catholic Cranium** continues to be popular. Parish continues to communicate that all young people within the parish, whether in Religious Ed or not, can participate.
 - **Vacation Bible School** (Preschool – 4th grade). Popular summer program with preschool and Kindergarten aged children.
 - **Totus Tuus** (grades 1-12). St Therese has been offering the program for 3 years. Costs approximately \$1200-1400 per year. Well received by children and parents.

- Long-term Goals 3-5 years Out

- **Preschool programming** – Moving away from weekly model and engaging and aiding parents to participate more in child's religious teaching. Little Lambs suggestion.
 - **K-5 Religious Education** – Change the mentality that religious education ends after the Sunday or Wednesday class or once the child completes confirmation. Implementing a Family Formation

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program. St Lambert's and Holy Spirit already use some form of a family program approach to religious education.

Dahlin and committee to review what St Lambert & Holy Spirit parishioners like/dislike about the program.

- **Summer Programs** – goal would be to continue indefinitely w/Vacation Bible School and Totus Tuus.

▪ Goals for the Coming Year

- **Preschool – Liturgy of the Word** – Increase advertising and participation in program. Subcommittee to suggest ways to increase weekly connection w/parents. Possibly implement Sunday Celebrations – intro to family centered catechesis
- **K – 5 Religious Education**
 - > Building better support for catechists within volunteer staff
 - > Increase outreach to unregistered families
 - > Praying purposefully for guidance in our Children's ministries
 - > Contacting current families for feedback on current programming
- **Summer Programs** – Maintain & enhance Totus Tuus and Vacation Bible School. Review programming ideas for 4th & 5th graders (low participation of 4th graders in VBS and limited participation in Totus Tuus)

▪ Ways to Measure Goals

- Increased participation in programs & activities
- Develop informal way of testing child's knowledge of the faith
- Gain feedback from parents and catechists
- Increased involvement in church activities as a whole, by both children and their families.

- Closing prayer

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- Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm
- Next Meeting May 12th, 6:30 pm