

St Therese Faith Formation Committee
6-9-09 Meetings

Members Present: Pat Starr, Michelle Pellman, Bridget Dahlin, Eric Schmidt, Twyla Steinberger, Cathy Anderson, Nancy Seaman, John Faundeen, Tammy Badger

Not Present: Father Hal Barber, Mike McInerney, Karen Heiling, Sheila Conrads

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

Minutes - Motion by Michelle Pellman to approve as written, Eric Schmidt seconded. Unanimously approved.

Communication

Shirley Donnelly will have Education related information from the signup Sunday before our next meeting in July. Twyla Steinberger relayed that Bill Van Roe and Kay Ballard have resigned from the Faith Formation Committee (FFC). We are all hoping that Signup Sunday will yield us some more members.

Old Business

Twyla Steinberger passed around the new parishioner welcome packet provided from Shirley Donnelly. This is a sizable amount of materials. Twyla Steinberger did not go over every item and instead she summarized what is included. It was noted that Pat Starr and Michelle Pellman are on the Welcome Task Force. Currently, the welcome packet does not have anything specific to the FFC, but Shirley Donnelly does inform new parishioners of what is going on at the time they sign up. Shirley has also been receiving information from the Sioux Falls Welcome Wagon, but the information is difficult to determine the Catholics and those that live in our parish area.

Eric Schmidt and Bridget Dahlin reported that the parish web site is being updated and that a Faith Formation tab will be established where all of the committees would post their agendas and minutes. Under each Parish committee tab would be a separate area for the sub-committees.

Twyla Steinberger relayed that no budget information has been provided yet and the Finance Council meets the week of June 15th so hopefully information will be available soon. Twyla will be the informal liaison to this committee until the Finance Committee establishes one.

Bridget Dahlin indicated that the Children's Ministries Sub-Committee has not met yet.

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Eric Schmidt shared that the number of students not in Catholic Schools or Religious Education is as follows:

Grades 6-10	33 students
Grades 11-12	35 students

Discussion noted that Sunday nights were still a problem for some families to fit into their schedules.

For the record, Pat Starr is one of the Youth Ministries reps.

Eric Schmidt reported that the Catechist Core Team is expected to be in place this summer. Regarding interaction between the Core Team and the FFC, Eric would ideally like to have someone on the FFC that is a catechist also serving on the Core Team. The FFC discussed whether it would be realistic, from a time commitment standpoint, for one person to serve in this capacity. The FFC agreed that interaction is needed, but the Youth Ministries rep need not be a catechist on the Core Team as well.

Eric Schmidt reported on the Religious Education Curriculum progress. Confirmation was discussed first, which will contain 13 sessions plus a retreat that hopefully will be led by Mt. Marty students. The lesson plans were next discussed. The FFC all hoped that parents would review the materials leading to more involvement in their child's religious education. A Confirmation Sponsor Preparation package was also discussed. This will be used to inform the sponsors of what material is available as well as resources for them. Twyla Steinberger asked if the Sponsors are to do the activities listed in the package or if they are elective. Eric Schmidt stated that the activities are elective. FFC discussed making the activities, or a subset of them, mandatory as a way to get the Sponsors and candidates to interact more. The discussion ended with the FFC preferring that an activity, or more than one, be required.

The Confirmation retreat date will be October 11th, which will be sent out in a letter June 10th.

Sunday night Faith Formation for Youth will include Junior and Senior High topics and approaches as appropriate. A 12-month calendar outlining religious education sessions has been compiled.

Twyla Steinberger relayed that Barbara Lockwood has been very busy with the Cathedral School consolidation and asked if she could provide the FFC an update on St. Lambert's and the Sioux Falls Catholic Schools at our August meeting. The FFC felt that would be fine.

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New Business

Cathy Anderson and Sheila Conrads are the Adult Ministries reps. Twyla Steinberger asked those two to touch base with the Women's Faith Sharing Group, the Adult Prayer Group, the RCIA, and the Pre-Marital Inventory Counseling Couples groups to obtain information about what they are currently doing and discuss how the FFC can help them.

No one from the FFC has been identified as the Vocation Ministries rep yet. Shirley Donnelly coordinated Dan Smith's Deacon celebration activities. Pat Starr asked if Dan Smith could get on the CCD schedule. Eric Schmidt was not sure when Dan returns to Connecticut.

Closing prayer was an Our Father said by all.

Next Meeting July 14th, 6:30 pm.