

SJN Faith Formation Committee Meeting January 14th, 2020 - Agenda & Minutes

Attendees: Jen Sherman, Julie Larson, Nick Esch, Ron Bisek, Dan Wahl, Pat Howard
Absent: Erin Swift, Terri Wong, Michaela Schaff

1) Opening Prayer: Nick

2) Welcome and Warm-up: Each committee member shared their favorite part of the Christmas season this year.

3) Chapters 3-5: 'Jesus and the Church': Some felt the book was not always easy to apply to daily life, but most felt Chapter 5 was the best yet of the book. Some highlights discussed included the intent of each individual gospel (Ch. 3) and our connection to Christ (Ch. 5). We are to read chapters 6 & 7 before our March meeting.

4) Parish Library Update: Pat reported the library is moving so that it does not have to be locked. It will be located in the niche where blood pressures are normally taken after Mass. He feels the library will fit well there with some sorting out of books that have not been popular for check-out. It is moving ASAP and he plans to seek out volunteers from the group of Confirmation candidates. Julie also offered that the Moms group could potentially help with moving as well.

5) Ministry Updates:

-Tonya (reported by Julie): Confirmation retreat went well, but there will be some prep changes before February's retreat. Faith Formation registration will be changing for next year. VBS dates have been determined.

-Pat (reported by Nick): The first Adult FF session wraps up this month ("Mass Readings Explained"). There are two separate offerings which meet either Wednesdays or Thursdays weekly. There are 33 registrants. The cost of the class is prorated based on when people plan to attend.

-Michaela (reported by Jen): Still short catechists at the 6:30 session on Sunday nights and a larger sub pool is needed. We are between Confirmation retreats.

-Theresa B (reported by Dan): I walked through the lower level on Sunday morning after the 8:00 Mass and spoke with several high school student volunteers taking a quick break prior to the 10:00 Mass group of children arriving.

I was then able to meet briefly with Teresa for an update. She said that everything was going well, no issues, and very upbeat on having several additional attendees in process of registering. Theresa remains confident that there is room to grow this children's ministry and open to ways to increase the attendance. As stated in the previous report, she questions if the program cost to families is a factor. She and Pat have spoken about this and there may be further review relative to next year.

6) Building a Culture of Catechesis: This continues to be a core goal of our committee. It was suggested that we should facilitate people responding to what they are being called by God to do. That could be starting out as a parent helper or substitute as a gateway into catechesis. Maybe each program could have an open house as a forum to invite people to respond to their call. It was asked that our brochures from last year be brought to our next meeting for review.

7) Committee Stewardship Goal:

- Servers: Fr. Doug pointed out a lack of servers in his comments prior to our committee breakout. Our committee could try to facilitate this being a larger part of the Family Formation curriculum including learning the basics and having a server come talk about their experiences. Kids can start training to serve after they receive 1st Communion.
- Hospitality –
 - Caffeine and Christ – area for parents to hang out while Middle and High Schoolers are in class?
- Service--Ways to integrate Service and Social Justice projects into each level of the Faith Formation curriculum in partnership with the FF staff.
 - Use ministries that are already active at SJN as there are many (Open Door, Blanket for Babes, Thanksgiving Baskets, etc, save pennies for Lent) to mix ministries and get to know one another better.
- Ideas:
 - We should think of this goal as more of a January to January goal knowing that this year's curriculum is mostly determined already.
 - Our goal should not be a mandate to staff, but a way to make service or parish-wide catechesis or hospitality more intentional across all of our programs.
 - Give choice to participants. Make it salient for those of all ages.
 - Help our youth learn their basic prayers. Maybe by learning their meaning and background.

See Nick's follow-up email regarding our specific goals

8) Registration 2020-21: Pat and staff are looking at alternatives to TIES. Pros: shopping cart functionality, installment plan built in, Flocknote built in. Cons: no early bird price, no family max capability.

8) Closing Prayer

Our next meeting will be Tuesday March 10th ~6:30-9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Sherman