



MEETING DETAILS

Description: Family and Community Life Committee Minutes

Date: Thursday, December 1, 2016

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: SJN Meeting Room 1

Chair: Steve Chojnacki

Members

- **Present:** Teresa Klippen, Wes Klippen, Emily Hayden, Norma King, Lona Wacker, Lisa Okoneski, Wendy Ashbridge
 - **Absent:** Jill Tilbury, Chev Figueiroa
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OPENING ACTIVITIES

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Reading of Parish Mission Statement and Vision**
- **Overall Committee Mission/Purpose**

We seek to serve the families of the parish through opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth and support for Christ-centered marriages and families.

Agenda Item 1... Ministry Review

Long Range Plan Focus Area: Communication with Ministries

Short Term / Current Year Goal/Objective(s): Over the course of the next year, we hope to have representatives from each ministry under the FCL umbrella attend a FCL Committee meeting.

Discussion:

- It is important for both the Committee and the ministries to put names to faces and to engage each other in dialogue about triumphs/struggles/needs.
- Ministries should be reviewed to determine whether they are viable or how they can be improved.
- It was suggested that FCL Committee members could be liaisons to each of the ministries to ensure ministries are moving ahead on their own goals/objectives.

Action/Decisions Made:

- Steve Chojnacki will put together a schedule of meeting dates and ministry visits. Invitations will come from the committee to each ministry lead and a suggested date for a visit.

Agenda Item 2...Building Volunteer Base

Long Range Plan Focus Area: Parishioner Involvement/Communication with Parish/Youth Engagement

Short Term / Current Year Goal/Objective(s): Work to increase the number of volunteers in FCL ministries and “advertise” when ministries have particular needs

Discussion:

- **Donut/Cookie weekends** These were discussed at length, particularly since it occurs every week and relies on only a handful of people for its execution. The use of Signup Genius was questioned as to whether it was the most effective way to get people to volunteer. The idea of developing one or several volunteer coordinators was discussed. Each of them could be assigned particular month/months for which they would be in charge of filling slots with volunteers. It was also discussed that perhaps each of the committees be in charge of a weekend, providing posters, ministry stories, witnesses to why people were drawn to particular ministries, etc. Volunteers for Donut Sunday itself could be sought during the donut/cookie event. Lisa mentioned also connecting with Steve Grass to encourage our youth to volunteer and in the process take care of service hour requirements.
- Discussion was had regarding the possibility of hiring/requesting a volunteer coordinator for the entire parish due to the need for organization of this particular area of parish administration. The likelihood of hiring someone was thought to be very small, but it was agreed there could be great benefit to an individual or a group of volunteers acting in this capacity.
- Although it does not fall under the FCL umbrella, discussion was had regarding new parishioner registration. This was seen as one place where ministries, both those under the FCL umbrella and others, should be presented and any current needs put before new registrants. It was thought that a “ministry flip chart” could be created giving vital information about ministries and specifically the contact person(s) to make it easy for someone to get information. Questions were raised as well about what sort of follow up there was once new people registered. It was thought that one way to increase volunteerism would be to create a connection with those who had just joined the parish. This might be a followup phone call or perhaps a personal visit at some outside location or at church. This might lead to the formation of a welcoming group who are trained and in charge of seeing to it that there is follow up with new parishioners or those who are interested in joining the parish.
- There was discussion about having a “ministry need” sign at all times in the gathering space to show any current ministries looking for volunteers. Along these lines, perhaps a “committee fair” could be held, where each committee and its ministries provide information to parishioners about their work.

Action/Decisions Made:

- Steve will discuss with Tiffany Rupp/Wendy/Lisa to determine how volunteers are currently sought for donuts/cookies weekends and whether Signup Genius is effective. He will also request a list of names of current volunteers, including

those who added their names to the ranks during volunteer recruitment last month.

- It was decided that the FCL Committee will hold a “ministry fair” in conjunction with a Donut/Cookie Weekend, likely in February. Each ministry under the FCL umbrella will be encouraged to produce materials to “advertise” their ministry and use the fair as a way to encourage volunteerism and provide information and to have members available at the event to speak directly with interested parishioners.
- Since the FCL Committee is in its infancy in some ways, Steve plans to call an extra committee meeting in January to further discuss the ministry fair and do some planning. Members of the committee will be encouraged to attend but are not obliged to do so.

Agenda Item 3... Need for New Ministries

Long Range Plan Focus Area: Communication/Parishioner Involvement

Short Term / Current Year Goal/Objective(s): Over the next year, we would like to determine whether there are family and community life needs that are not being met for some parishioners.

Discussion:

- While we have feedback on how parishioners view the parish currently, it is not apparent whether there are needs that are being missed. Several areas discussed were speakers/workshops for working parents who are unable to attend events during the day. While Parents’ Night Out functions as a way for parents to have a break from their children, the idea was presented that periodically a speaker on parenting might be offered at the same time.
- Another idea was a parent/teen event to get families to talk together about their faith.
- While the Cana Dinner is one event for married couples, maybe there is another event that would appeal to younger couples and would be directed specifically at them.
- There seems to be the possibility for a group for those who are divorced as well.
- Some of the discussion dealt with past ministries that have been attempted and eventually did not succeed. For example, there was a singles ministry but there was difficulty in determining the direction it wanted to go and also keeping the leadership that was needed to maintain it and keep it fresh and active.
- The other idea was a specific event for new parishioners to meet both current and other new members. The new members could be matched with those of similar status (e.g., married with children, single, etc.)

Action/Decisions Made:

- This topic will be revisited in the near future but tabled for now as the committee prioritizes dealing with ministries that are currently active.

Agenda Item 4... 40th Anniversary Celebration

Long Range Plan Focus Area: Parishioner Involvement

Discussion:

- While there is a committee being established specifically for the 40th celebration, discussion was had about “marketing” materials being produced with the theme, “This is SJN” which not only describe the parish’s history but give a real snapshot of who we currently are and the story that we’d like to tell about ourselves to current parishioners, new parishioners, those thinking about becoming members, and the community around us.

Action/Decisions Made:

- Topic will be discussed in the future in conjunction with the group that Fr. Doug is establishing to deal specifically with the celebration itself.

Agenda Item 5... Website Update

Long Range Plan Focus Area: Communications

Discussion:

- It is largely felt that the parish website has been extremely slow in being updated. The Family and Community Life area on the site is in desperate need of changes.

Action/Decisions Made:

- At the next committee meeting, current website content will be discussed and a small group will be established to submit current information on the committee and its ministries.

Agenda Item 5... Open Meeting for PPC

Long Range Plan Focus Area: Communications

Action/Decisions Made:

- It was decided that March would be best for the PPC Open Meeting so as not to interfere with our April full committee meeting.

Next Full Committee Meeting: February 2, 2017, 6:30 p.m.