

EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 01, 2016

Commission members present:

Father John Kopson, Karen Mitchell, Rebecca Bridgnanan, Marti Biscaro, , Tess Noonan, Anne Lybik, Tom Mitchell

Guest: Steve Gibb

Absent: Kelly Hodorek, Ellen Salter

Committee Reports

1. **Religious Education:**

- Karen requested “Beautiful Mercy” books that are being ordered for Lent and Easter be given to RCIA students.
- 8 RCIA Candidates are progressing well, discussed having Commission members present at Easter Vigil in welcoming our newest.

2. **Youth Ministry:**

- Rebecca reported middle School Youth group C.Y.T. (Catholic youth Trek) was a success! All enjoyed the movie “Soul Surfer” and the Hool-a-hoop contest were just a few of the highlights.
- The CYT was held in the new youth group room and 40 students from 6 parishes attended.
- High School group, Fr. John and volunteers attended the “march for life trip” on the weekend of January 21-23, 2016 in Washington D.C. despite the weather and road conditions!
- The students shared how they love and understand their Catholic faith more after attending the March. Many felt inspired to Evangelize and much discussion amongst the group of how they can do this.
- The bus ride home from the March for Life was 17 hours long and not one complaint from the students!
- Rainbow Conference Jan. 30-31st, 2016 was held in Detroit, approximately 800 people attended and D.C. had 7 of these attendees!
- Archbishop Vigneron said mass and Chris Padgett, Chelsea Gheisling and Fr. Edwardo Montemayor were keynote speakers

3. **Vocation Awareness:**

- Travelling Chalice is circulating through the Education Commission members and Parish Council members are encouraged to also sign up. Discussed the advertisement in “The Infant” shows the website for the Traveling Chalice is a very long web address. Annie agreed, but has to work with “sign up Genius” guidelines and will look to see if there is any options to shorten this web address.

- Looking to connect the travelling Chalice “sign up” and information regarding this effort with E-blast that is e-mailed to families of the Parish weekly

4. Faith Formation:

- Dr. Festiggi’s presentation was well attended, approximately 600 people of Muslim and Catholic faith.
- Tess strongly feels that we need to harness the interest and continue to promote and educate the community around common ground of both Christianity and Muslim faiths.
- Tom Stressed the need to Evangelize within this forum while educating and comparing common ground between Muslims and Christians
- Dr. Festiggi’s presentation worked well because he answered questions directly and succinctly
- Next Faith Formation Evening to be held on February 29, 2016 in the Gathering room at the Church. Fr. John to be discussing “the last four things” which is Judgement, Heaven, Hell and Purgatory
- Discussed the need to fill the Faith Formation evening on April 25th, 2016. Members reviewed the “Faith Formation Needs Assessment Survey results” and Steve Gibb directed our group to “The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist” as this was on the top 10 list on the Survey.
- Fr. John thought the Faith Formation evening on April 25th, 2016 could present the Eucharistic Miracles, along with a display that Rebecca said was in the D.C. High school a couple of years ago.
- The A.O.D. co-chair of Evangelization met with the priests and will be presenting a parish needs assessment to them.
- The “Faith Formation Needs Assessment Survey results” (from 2014) were distributed to members to be further discussed at next meeting, as we need to start planning our topics for next year.

5. Evangelization Committee:

- Kelly absent, but briefly discussed by the Education Commission members who attended. The evening of Jan. 23, 2016 for the Q & A. that was held at St. Sabine between 6 parishes had low turnout. Contributing factors, such as weather, March for Life, lack of advanced promotion & advertising were discussed.
- Approximately 30-35 people attended this event at St. Sabine, 5 attendees were from D.C. and 3 priests answered questions. Questions were written on paper to give anonymity and collected by volunteers to give to the priests.
- This prompted discussion of our own Divine Child Q & A. which we hope will occur in the summer, date TBD. Discussed last year’s Q & A. at “Uncle Rays” and how successful it was, but parking was an issue.
- Knights of Columbus, Antonios and Leons mentioned as possible locations for D.C.’s Q & A.

6. Lighthouse Catholic kiosk:

- Marti has restocked the Kiosk and discussed that she is learning when is the best time to order and restock as the Kiosk was depleted. Topics of Islam and Christianity tend to be taken readily.

7. Parish Council:

- Shared Fr. Jim's announcement of starting the new Football field in the Spring
- Discussed the success of Dr. Festiggi's presentation
- Tess informed the Parish Council that the books that we tried to order for Christmas were cancelled due to an increase in price. Asked if we can look into a book for Easter as an alternative (please refer to "new Business")
- Next meeting, February 15th, 2016

8. New Business:

- Steve Gibb present at today's meeting of the Education Commission to inform our group about ordering "Beautiful Mercy" books to distribute at Easter Masses
- Fr. Jim has consented to ordering 600-700 books at a price of \$1.50 per book including shipping.
- "Beautiful Mercy" books fits with Pope Francis' year of Mercy theme.
- All present are in agreement to ordering "Beautiful Mercy" and Steve will Contact Marilyn.
- Fr. John confirmed that Fridays during Lent, following Stations of the Cross, that Lectio Divina will be offered for any to share and participate and Fr. Jim and Fr. John will alternate in leading the Lectio Divina
- At our next meeting in March we will be examining the parish survey from 2014 to determine future topics for faith formation evenings (Tess needs to not talk so much so we can complete this task!!)

Next Education Commission Meeting Monday March 07, 2016 at 6:30pm. In the Elementary school library