

Faith Formation Meeting minutes (9/16/07 10:30-noon)

Present; Eileen Beuler, Al Clowser, Doug Fackelman, Jennifer Osterholzer. Excused: Julie Pattullo

Meeting was begun in prayer. Brief Review of last month's meeting.

-Movie Night is scheduled for Saturday, October 27th and we will have a Halloween theme with Monster House as our movie. It will begin at 6:15pm after 5:00pm mass with a Halloween potluck themed dinner. Children are encouraged to wear costumes and we will have games as well.

-The library is scheduled to begin in October. It will be on carts and put out in the cafeteria so people can browse or sign them out by themselves. Titles include books for children, families, theology, catechism, grief and Q&A books. All titles will not be out at first so as to overwhelm anyone. Titles will change occasionally and a book list will be available if someone is looking for a particular book or title. There it is suggested that there be a 2 book and 1 video check out limit and items should be returned within 2 weeks. The parish has recently purchased "newer" books to supplement older books we have. All books donated must also be "Catholic" and approved by Eileen since we do not have a lot of space and we want to make sure we offer catholic teachings. A suggestion to buy Mother Theresa new book was suggested. We have Pope Benedict's two recent books.

-We have asked for Father Mark to offer a teaching mass in early 2008. The week following the teaching mass a suggestion was brought up to have an adult ed lesson on the Latin Mass and maybe even a field trip for anyone who would like to experience this and then talk about it. Other suggestions included: Most of our older adults are at least vaguely familiar with the Tridentine Mass. Perhaps a couple of round-table workshops on the Roman Mass facilitated by older adults who were raised on the Latin Mass might be helpful for the post-Vatican 2 members of the parish helping all ages to understand our tradition and to understand the difference between the Masses since the Pope has brought the Latin mass into attention again recently.

-Juliet is still looking into book sale possibly having it in December and maybe some time in the spring. We would work with a local catholic store and bring in some items and return what we do not sell the next week. This would help bring catholic reading into our parish and we would have no upfront expenses, just profit. So we would be doing a good work to make readily available & accessible Catholic literature to our parishioners and still help the local businesses. Juliet looked into working with a gift store which has assorted wood dice with various assorted thanksgiving table grace, Catholic prayers or bedtime prayers on each end. The dice are a good size at 2"x 2x 2 with cost of \$5 each with suggested retail price of \$10.

-It was suggested that 3rd and 4th grade religious education students pass out candy canes and candy cane story in December following masses to help keep Christ in Christmas.

-Why Catholic? groups are being encouraged to do a project at the conclusion of their program to demonstrate the question of "How do we act out as sacramental people?"

-We continued discussion on Food For The Poor project a couple times a year organizing a way for helping to feed those who are less fortunate out of "our excesses." i.e. On Valentine's Day donating money to help the poor instead of spending it on another bag of candy. This will help form our children in our faith and include children in stewardship of our church. We would like to work with stewardship committee on this project since they did such a good job taking over Operation Rice Bowl, FFP would be an extension of what we already do for ORB. We were asked to come up with a symbol(prop) to use to place on the altar and have children & anyone else donate in. Juliet's themes for each month were: J-Snowboot, F-Heart shaped bowl, M-Shamrock bowl, A-Umbrella, M-Flowerpot, Jun- Picnic Basket, Jul-flags & fireworks, A-Small suitcase, S-backpack, O-pumpkin, N-Cornucopia, D-cradle/crèche.

-Eileen suggested beginning a First Communion Dress Collection for the Food for the Poor Organization that they already have in place. A committee will take pictures of girls in their communion dresses that will then be donated along with the picture to the Food For The Poor organization who will distribute them. Possibly a Why Catholic group could organize this?

-Stephen's Ministries is in the beginning process of being organized at Holy Trinity- Suzanne Geislinger & Kathy Hake are going to leadership training in January.

-Al met with Cheryl Davis of MacKenzie Place to see what the community was like so we could look at possible things they might need or be interested in, i.e. bible study groups, outreach for seniors, etc. I explained to her that Holy Trinity was eager to serve the retirement community in any way possible. Apparently the new community will be operated more like a retirement community than an assisted living or nursing facility. When I asked her when and where she anticipated religious services being held, she said that would depend on the makeup of the resident population. She anticipated that some residents might want on-site services while others would prefer to attend neighborhood services. It appears that the residential cottages will be opening around the first of the year, with the apartments opening around the first of March. I told her that I'd be back in touch with her nearer the first of the year. (Note: one of the reasons we asked Al to join our committee was because we felt there was large older community in our parish that we felt we had not addressed their needs or wants, Al is active in the CS area community and is familiar with what is out there). **After reading evangelization committee minutes I think we should connect with each other so as to not inundate Cheryl with our presence.*

Other ideas raised we did not have time to discuss:

-Faith Re-formation: Perhaps we could look into offering 60-minute lecturettes on scriptural or catechetical topics, using audio visual resources from the diocese and/or Benet Hill, followed by group discussions..Provide light refreshments. Meetings could be held in the main floor classrooms of the school. Facilitators would be drawn from parish volunteers.

-Book club, focusing on religious novels and non-fiction

-Making sure we all try to recruit someone to take over our position on the committee. We are trying to keep term to 3-4 years. Jennifer's family is being deployed next year. Doug's planned leaving date would be after Why Catholic? is over(2 more years)etc. This way we can keep building leaders and not burn out those who have volunteered.

Meeting adjourned with prayer. Next meeting will be in November. We will email each other to make sure Movie night & potluck are organized.