

Type of meeting: Monthly – generally fourth Monday of the Month

Attendees: Larry Huiras, Ellen Hanten, Mary Jo Peters, Toni Chambers (four members unable to attend)

Opening: Meeting opened with prayer and reading of Sunday's Gospel, Mark 1:12-15, and readings I and II (Genesis 9:8-15; I Peter 3:18-22) followed by reflection and discussion.

Agenda Item: Review of received mission statements from formation committees:

Discussion: This item was tabled due to lack of representation from all formation committees.

Conclusion: A meeting which includes all formation committees should be held to address the above item, by June 30th, 2009.

Agenda Item: Parish-wide communication and interconnectedness

Discussion: The need for a more complete understanding of all parish committees, groups and organizations and how all are integrated into the Parish was discussed. The fact that the Parish-wide formation committee is relatively new, this information will be beneficial for effectiveness. The need was highlighted by example of various formation opportunities within the parish for the Lenten season, as well as Sister Parish engagement for the coming year – both of which deserve shared communication and support of the various committees involved in these ministries.

Conclusion: A visual diagram with explanations may be helpful. This task will be attempted by Claire Zajac (stewardship committee, who has agreed to collaborate on this task), Larry Huiras and Toni Chambers. This is a work in progress.

Agenda Item: Upcoming parish-wide formation celebrations. Holy Week.

Discussion: Current plans were discussed – those originating from the youth commission as well as others. This discussion again highlighted the need for more effective communication, coordination, and collaboration amongst committees.

Conclusion: Thursday evenings in March will offer Taizé prayer. There will also be a session on the History of the Mass and continued opportunities for the study of the catechism. Various small groups are continuing their Little Rock Scripture Study during the Lenten season as well. The youth commission is planning a stations of the cross prayer service for the evening of Good Friday. Larry will share this information with Terry. Operation Rice bowl will be a part of the Parish-wide offerings during lent and all youth of our parish will have an opportunity to support the work of the School Sisters of St. Francis.

Agenda Item: Service Project – Sister Parish/Catholic Worker House

Discussion: The energy and enthusiasm for our Sister Parish, especially from those recently returning from the mission trip, was discussed. A part of the discussion included the possibility of parish-wide efforts to continue to grow in our support and relationship to our Sister Parish. Also, briefly discussed was the work of the Social Concerns Committee and the parish-wide prayer group, that have been pursuing efforts toward meeting the needs of those in need within our community, with the possibility of a Catholic Worker House. Each of these efforts allows for continued opportunity to live the Gospel, and our Catholic Faith. Again, it was noted that this type of endeavor will require good communication between the committees involved, and the role of each in the implementation.

Conclusion: The support of our Sister Parish and House of Hospitality are affirmed; what this will look like specifically will only be determined through continued conversation with the committees involved in these ministries.

Agenda Item: Confirmation Programming

Discussion: Concern was raised regarding the current third year confirmation students (juniors, preparing for Confirmation this spring). The concern focused on whether our current model for confirmation preparation is accomplishing what we hope for, in the most effective way to meet the spiritual/faith needs of the youth of our parish as Catholic Christians in today's world.

Conclusion: A review process should be established to examine closely our current model, on all levels. This process should include the guidelines of confirmation formation as established by the USBC, as well as looking closely at the needs of our youth, what is currently working and how needs might be met via other venues of formation.

Agenda Item: Diocesan catechist formation certificates

Discussion: There were concerns addressed regarding the Diocesan catechist formation certificates. Specifically, a lack of understanding of how 'hours' are measured, and why, despite being licensed teachers, some with advanced degrees are being told they need to acquire additional hours in 'methods' to move from the Diocesan 'basic level' of catechist. The idea of formation for catechists is supported and encouraged, as well as some form of accountability for this formation, but a clearer understanding of the process is needed.

Conclusion: Larry will compile current information on the process, as well as concerns, and will be contacting those within the Diocese who may be able to help us better understand the current process, rubric and objectives/goals.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 23, 7:00 p.m. Brides room

Note: Minutes are to be disseminated to members of the committee and to Phyllis Koss for posting on the parish web site and to forward to Parish Council.