

08/22/2011 Religious Education Committee Meeting Notes

Present: Julie Hammer, Linda Goedert, Terry Hartman, Carl Paul, JulieAnn Jarentowski, Rich Tauferner, Zach Schwobe, John Spoerl

Absent: Fr. Bob Lotz, Genevieve Gates, Ken Udovich

Meeting was opened with a prayer from Terry Hartman, discussion as follows:

- Ann Lemmer and family are moving back to their hometown and she has resigned from the committee.
 - ❖ John will talk to Blessed Trinity parish council about a replacement for Ann.
 - ❖ Rich is also talking to St John's parish council about discernment for RE committee members.
 - ❖ We are still looking for Student Representatives from St John's.
 - ❖ Ann's son lost his battle with cancer on Sunday 08/21. The RE committee is sending a flower arrangement to the funeral.
- Registrations are coming in for the 2011-2012 religious education term.
 - ❖ There are enough in that class lists can be started.
 - ❖ The schedules for classes are done. A letter and schedule will be sent out next week to families.
 - ❖ Classes begin on Wednesday 09/21 for 1st through 11th grades and on Sunday 09/25 for kindergarten classes.
 - On 9/21 the 7th and 8th grades will have class while the 1st through 6th grade and 9th through 11th grades along with their parents will attend a meeting with Fr. Bob and Julie.
 - On 09/28 the 7th and 8th grades along with their parents will attend the same meeting and the 1 through 6th and 9th through 11th grades will have class.
 - ❖ The new curriculum, Blest Are We— Faith in Word, was presented to all 1st through 6th grade catechists at 2 separate catechist meetings so all could have a chance to attend.
 - ❖ Classes are scheduled for 3 weeks on and 1 week off so that catechists can get together that week for training.
 - ❖ Still have needs for 3 middle school catechists and 2 high school catechists. There are 35 total catechists needed.
 - ❖ This year's focus for all students will be Mass attendance. A great way to connect class with Sunday's Mass.
 - In the back of the 1st through 6th grade textbooks there is a worksheet that asks for students to answer a few questions about the last Mass they attended. Such as a key point of the homily and what colors were featured at that Mass. These would be handed out on Wednesdays and turned back in the next Wednesday. They are grade specific.
 - Julie could make up a worksheet for the 7th through 11th grades and this could be in the bulletin each week.
 - An idea that can excite the students and get them to pay attention during the Homily is to ask Fr. Bob to have his 1st sentence be directed at them, "The key message of today's Homily is".
 - This can be turned into a contest of sorts and have an incentive for the kids. There are 32 weeks of class. An example could be 50% attendance = one type of reward, 75% a little higher level reward etc. Give out the rewards twice, at the end of each semester so the students see the reward attached to the activity.
- Council reports:
 - ❖ St. John's council met 08/15. They wanted to hear about the program and asked if any families or students have requested to be moved from the class time or parish where their class is scheduled. Julie reported back that none have.

- ❖ Blessed Trinity council meeting, nothing was said about the RE program, their next meeting is Thursday 08/25.
- Youth Activities
 - ❖ The Food Drive Scavenger Hunt will be held twice this year. In the fall in Kohler and in the spring in Sheboygan Falls.
 - ❖ Zach Weber is going to be speaking with the 7th through 11th grade students about his journey to the priesthood.
 - ❖ St John Boscoe Youth Day at Holy Hill is scheduled for Saturday October 1st. Ages are middle through high school. This is a free event.
 - ❖ The St. Vincent DePaul walk for the poor is Saturday September 24th. Julie will send out an e-mail on this event.
- Discussion concerning rewards or recognition for Alter Servers, Kinderchor, youth Lectors and Cantors. Years ago many of us had pizza or pool parties as youth. It would be nice to recognize the youth who do participate in Mass. A party or/and Certificates of recognition?
- Generations of Faith Program:
 - ❖ Julie will be instructing the families with children. Fr. Bob will be instructing the Adults. A couple couples are taking the high school students.

Next Meeting: A regular meeting schedule has been established. It is the 2nd Tuesday, every other month at 7pm. We will alternate parish locations.

Here is the schedule:

October 11 @ SJE
 December 13 @ BT
 February 14 @ SJE
 April 10 @ BT
 June 12 @ SJE
 August 14 @ BT
 October 9 @ SJE
 December 11 @ BT

Respectfully submitted: Terry Hartman