

## 11/7/10 Religious Education Committee Meeting Notes

*Present:* Julie Hammer, Terry Hartman, Ann Lemmer, Liz Holtz, Carl Paul, Lilly Rotter, Linda Goedert

*Absent:* Fr. Bob Lotz, Andy Ansay

Meeting was opened with a prayer from Ann Lemmer, discussion then preceded as follows:

**Committee Members:** Susan Kautzer was unable to continue her participation in the committee which led to Carl Paul being selected to fill the available committee seat and Terry Hartman accepting the role of chairperson. Liz Holtz is also the new representative from the Parish Council.

**DRE report:** During October the religious education classes focused on learning about the Rosary, November the focus has been on learning about the Saints. Advent will be the focus during December. Julie has age appropriate advent devotionals that will be given to the students, as well as advent activities during class time. 2nd grade students will receive their First Reconciliation on December 4th. The religious education program has 15 students who will be receiving the sacrament.

Some extra activities that have happened during the school year so far have included a pumpkin activity involving 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders to reinforce information regarding Saints. Several classes have been touring the church and learning about the various areas of church. The eighth graders are looking into performing a "living stations" of the Cross. Discussion is still being held with no concrete plans as of right now.

The high school program was changed this year to a format that involves large and small group activities and team teaching for the Catechists. The feedback from the students and Catechists has been generally positive. The Catechists continue to work hard to transition to the new program and work out the kinks. One issue that is still being looked at is the gathering space for the activities. Due to the number of students, St. Mary's School gym is the gathering space used to accommodate the large group activities then the smaller groups break off into various areas of the gym.

The Advent charity program this year is the Samaritan's Purse. This program is voluntary for the students and if they chose to participate they fill a shoe box with a variety of toys, personal hygiene items, socks etc. Boxes are then sent to the distribution site where they are then disbursed to children around the world. There is a link for the students who participate where they can follow the box to see where it went.

Fr. Bob is holding meetings for the parents of religious education students to talk with them about what their students are learning. The meeting in October focused on Mary and the meeting in November will focus on the Saints. The attendance has been strong and he has been receiving good feedback regarding the content. There has been some discussion with the parents about a different more "cozy" meeting place; they are currently meeting in the church hall.

Confirmation was held on October 17th. Archbishop ListECKI presided and over 80 students were confirmed in the three hour ceremony. Many positive comments were received. Currently there is no post confirmation program for our students but Julie is contemplating options including a program geared toward service.

Financially, some "Smile" envelopes have been coming in designated for religious education.

**Parish Council:** Liz reported no council issues for religious education at this time.

**Youth Activities:**

The At-Home-Mission is scheduled for 6/20/11-6/24/11. The Human Concerns Committee and Julie are working on coordinating this program. Flyers have been sent to the local senior centers.

The work camp mission heading to South Carolina next summer still has 5 student spaces available and they are still in need of one male chaperone.

Tentative plans are again in the works for the 30 hour famine activity. Potential timeframe would be around Lent.

Julie presented a bowling activity for the religious education families to meet and bond in an outside setting. Discussion focused on the RE Committee taking on the planning for this. No formal plans are in place at this time.

**Adult Education:**

Fr. Bob is presenting an adult education series, Catholicism 101, which has been well received so far. He is presenting monthly on a variety of topics with an additional special Advent series during December.

**Old Business:** None or previously discussed/reported on.

**New Business:**

Lengthy discussion was held on the technology memorial grant that has not been confirmed yet but has been designated for the program. Carl volunteered to look into prices on a variety of options ie: projector, screens, laptops, wireless router etc. He will also talk with the parish IT person and Josh Klotz who uses the current system available through St. Mary's for his religious education class for ideas on what technologies could work well for our program. Julie also expressed there are Catholic computer programs that could be purchased. Depending on the decisions that are made regarding the funds, Terry has a contact that could help with the installation.

New Youth Representative discussion was held as our two current youth rep terms are expiring. Ideally the committee is looking for a sophomore and junior. The term is a 2 year commitment and would begin in June/July. Julie provided a list of high school students and all committee members will review the list prior to the next meeting designating the students they think have potential to be good fits.

The Catholic Women's conference was brought up by Terry as another adult education/enrichment opportunity for the parish. The flyer will be available to the parents at Fr. Bob's meeting and the Catholicism 101 meetings.

**Next Meeting:**

January 23, 2011 6pm

**Respectfully submitted:**

Linda Goedert