

Minutes from October 11, 2011

St. John Evangelist and Blessed Trinity

Religious Education Committee

The Religious Education Committee was called to order at 7:00 P.M. in the **St. John's** lower level conference room. Public notice of the meeting was posted in the bulletin as well as emailed to committee members.

Roll call of members was taken by JulieAnn Jarentowski.

Present: JulieAnn Jarentowski, Julie Hammer, Ken Udovich, Rich Tauferner, Jackie Grasso, Carl Paul, Linda Goedert, John Spoerl, Terry Hartman, and Zachary Schwobe

Absent: Fr. Bob and Genevieve Gates

1. Opening Prayer – Julie Hammer led the opening prayer.

2. New Business

A. Report from DRE – Julie Hammer

General Update –

- 3 weeks of Religious Education classes have been successfully completed so far.
- A focus on the Rosary along with materials has been provided for October.
- Linda Goedert shared a pumpkin project related to All Saint's Day which could be adapted for any grade level.
- 7 – 11 grade students and catechists are adjusting well to the new lesson format as well as integration of students across grade levels with representation from five high schools.
- Families are still registering for RE classes with new parishioner members.
- Approximately 410 K -11 grade students are registered between both parishes in RE.
- 4K and 5K numbers are down. Therefore, one 4K/5K RE class is presently offered at St. John's during the 9:00 A.M. Mass with 11 participants representing both parishes. Discussion was held as to why participation seems low.
- Children's Liturgy of the Word continues at Blessed Trinity on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the Month from Sept. to May open to children through 4th grade facilitated by a core of dedicated volunteers. Discussion was held as to the feasibility and protocol of offering Children's Liturgy of the Word at St. John's as a way to reach more children while providing consistency between both parishes. Parish Council rep. Rich Tauferner will present the idea at the next parish council meeting.
- No RE classes will be held on Oct. 12th as catechists will meet for inservice (training opportunities and collaboration time between grade levels).

Proposal for Bible Fund-

- Both quality and quantity of Bibles are lacking in the RE program at both parishes.
- Ideally each 7-11 grade student would receive the same Bible to use as part of his/her textbook materials and bring it to class each week. Quality with annotated text and durability would be important allowing each student to write or mark in their own Bible.
- Priority would be placed on 10th and 11th graders as this is their last year in RE.
- Discussion was held on how to fund the purchase of Bibles with a rough estimate of \$4,000 covering 7-11 grade students. Suggestions ranged from parents contributing \$20 in the 7th grade year, scholarship assistance, Knights of Columbus donations,

earmarked donations from parishioners, purchasing less expensive paperback Bibles as had been done in the past, and seeking donations from other parish committees.

- Jackie Grasso volunteered to write a proposal to send to the Finance Committees of both parishes requesting approval to start a Bible Fund.

Mass Reflection Points Program –

- General observations have been positive with an influx of students attending Mass.
- Julie received 4 negative emails and 1 family left the RE program.
- Many sheets have been submitted and Julie will keep track of participation.
- Discussion was held as to how catechists are presenting and sharing the gospel message in class. No one is being singled out or “shamed” for not attending Mass.
- Food for thought – how to disperse prizes and quality of meaningful prizes.
- 1st semester prizes are planned for December 21st.

Fall/Winter Service Project –

- Julie shared some project ideas such as Operation Christmas Child and the House of Peace Food Drive as well as past projects.
- A St. Nick service for grades 1-6 will be held at both locations with a food drive and community based giving project.
- A food drive scavenger hunt will be conducted by grades 7-11 in the Fall in Kohler and the Spring in Sheboygan Falls. The surrounding neighbors will be notified in advance. Linda will ask where the food at BT should go. The food at St. John’s is part of the adopt-a-family/giving tree program.

B. Parish Council Status Report: Rich (St. John’s) and John (Blessed Trinity)

Report on any actions at the Council level that relate to or effect this committee, i.e., budget, discernment, etc.

- Rich (St. John’s) – parish council advised sending letters home with RE families in order to recruit new RE committee members. In the meantime, Tracey Maggi indicated that she would like to serve on this committee. With the loss of Anne Lemmer at BT, representation would be equal.
- RE committee at St. John’s needs a youth representative. A list of high school students will be reviewed and potential candidates called.
- John (Blessed Trinity) – Kristin Thiel might be a potential candidate to replace Anne Lemmer. No news to report from the parish council.

C. Youth Activities:

Update on Youth activities

- Already discussed (see above)

D. Adult Education Activities:

- Generations of Faith – about 40 adults participated and a few families for the first event at St. John’s. Blessed Trinity will host next month. Seemed to be a positive experience.
- Roman missal workshop was held with about 40 in attendance.
- Fr. Bob will host an advent series again this winter.
- Blessed Trinity will host a Social Sunday on December 11th after Mass.

3. Old Business

A. Committee Membership from St. John’s

- Already discussed (see above)
- B. Faith in our Future – Technology Initiatives at St. John's
- Out of time – revisit at our next meeting.

4. Next Meeting

Date – December 13th

Time – 7:00 P.M.

Location – Blessed Trinity

Respectfully submitted by:

St. John Evangelist

JulieAnn Jarentowski, Committee Chairperson