

Faith Formation (FF) Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2012

Present: Art Z., Kathy Z., Mary Pat R., Nancy M., Marge V., Kate W., Scott S., Gayle G.
(FF chair and note taker)

1. For our opening prayer we read and reflected on next week's gospel.
2. Meeting minutes from our November 28, 2011 meeting were approved as written. Gayle will send to Barb F. for posting on the parish Web site.
3. The committee was open to rescheduling the next two meetings to accommodate Ellie's schedule. The committee proposes February 7 and March 6, both at 7:00 at church. Consider these tentative until they are confirmed by e-mail.
4. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) update: Mary Pat will write a note to parish kindergarten families asking them to tell us which of three options they're interested in for next year: current catechesis program at St. Cecilia's, CGS at Cabrini, or both. She would also like to send a note to current St. Cecilia's CGS parents who meet at Cabrini to see if they're OK with meeting on Wednesdays next year. She will also invite current CGS parents to think about people who might be interested in working with CGS as catechists or volunteers. FF said we need to be open to looking beyond current parents to include, for example, retirees and single people.

Mary Pat, Nancy, and Katie G. presented on CGS to parish Finance Committee who said they would be OK with hiring someone to be CGS catechists. The CGS training program is a two-year program at each of the three levels. There are two parishioners currently enrolled in the first year of the Level I training program. Mary Pat has completed the first year of Level III training. Current CGS catechists have worked with Levels II and III at Cabrini this year, and will lead two sessions there in late January/early February.

We also need to have further discussions on how CGS, including paying catechists, fits into the overall child FF program. We need to look at how we align our FF dollars for the entire child FF program.

Gayle will bring the following information to the January 12 Parish Council meeting:

- The CGS program is growing, current CGS catechists are overextended, and we need to explore adding additional catechists.
- FF believes we should pay current catechists rather than hiring and paying others.
- Additional training dollars should be set aside in next year's budget to train additional catechists.
- FF and Finance will develop a joint financial proposal for CGS.

- We recognize that we need to discuss CGS in the context of the overall child FF program.
- Mary Pat will write a memo to Will B regarding the Wednesday 4:30-6:00 being the only meeting time Cabrini has to offer us.

There was some concern that we were making recommendations without Ellie and Tim present at this meeting. Gayle said that she would probably not have time to get their input before the Parish Council meeting.

5. Virtus update: We still need to know the archdiocesan position on the number of adults required in classes for all children and youth, not only CGS. FF strongly recommends having two Virtus-trained adults in all child and youth FF programs. FF also recommends that Virtus training is scheduled at St. Cecilia's so we can more easily train as many adults as would like to be trained.
6. Adult FF update: Art is presenting Lenten conversion stories on February 29, and on March 28 he will present on the passion narrative in Mark's gospel. There was a request to have a nursery staffed when Art and others present, and this should be included in our advertisements. Perhaps we could get some youth group members to help. Marge will follow-up.

It was mentioned that we might consider an ongoing book club, perhaps reading a book of the bible. There will be small Visio groups offered in lent.

We are collaborating with Lumen Christi and St. Thomas More on Vatican II program consisting of five sessions on Council constitutions. This will be offered in the fall of 2012.

Marge mentioned that she and Tim have discussed that confirmation youth are considering an inter-religious dialogue on Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions. This could be a panel discussion with kids finding speakers, studying the issues, etc. Confirmation youth might also do a panel on how they live Christ's mission in everyday life.

Marge would also like to do a Lenten retreat.

7. Last year's FF committee wanted to have a "Living Christ Retreat" at St. Cecilia's but it never materialized. Our current committee wants to move this forward. Kathy Z. attended the FF meeting, presented handouts describing the retreat format of this parish-led retreat, and walked us through the materials. Kathy will be the coordinator and Art will assist her. We will need 6-8 parishioners to be retreat staff and another 6-8 for hospitality. We might also need babysitting help. FF is strongly committed to offering this retreat. We will need to determine what food budget we need for the retreat. Marge will be staff support to this endeavor and will develop an invitation. Two retreats will be scheduled in 2012:
 - The evenings of April 19 and 20, and the morning of April 21
 - The evenings of November 29 and 30, and the morning of December 1

8. Housekeeping: When e-mailing Nancy, please use nancy.mclaughlin@state.mn.us in addition to her home e-mail address.