

Faith Formation Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2011

Present: Art Zannoni, Mary Pat R., Ellie, Tim, AnnaMary, Nancy McL, Gayle (FF chair and note taker)

1. Art shared an opening prayer/reflection.
2. Meeting minutes from our September 26 meeting were approved. Gayle will send to Barb F. for posting on Web site. Ellen is stepping back from committee attendance for a while. Gayle will call people from the ministry sign-up list who are interested in Faith Formation.
3. Similar to the Council's plan to approve meeting minutes soon after the meeting, we decided to approve meeting minutes through e-mail. The note taker will send the minutes to FF members within seven days of the meeting, asking for people to approve the notes or make corrections within three days. The minutes will be considered approved if all the people attending the meeting – minus one – approve the minutes. If a sufficient number of people do not respond within three days, the chair will request that the minutes are posted on our Web site as "not yet approved."
4. Feedback on our recent Whole Community Sunday presentations was generally positive, although two other types of comments were shared: the logistics of moving into small groups was awkward, and presentations seemed to be geared much more to adults and youth than children. It would be difficult for most presenters to connect with both children and adults, particularly since we gave presenters no guidance on how to do this. Future plans:
 - Fr. Mike is scheduled for December 11.
 - January's theme is Church: How does Christ's mission continue today? Fr. Mike is scheduled for January 8. Several names were suggested for January 22. We discussed the idea that Fr. Mike's presentation would be a teaching presentation, and the second presentation each month would be more of a witness of faith – how to people live their faith?
 - February's theme is Morality. We discussed having a panel of adults and youth (perhaps confirmation candidates) but thought that morality might not be the best topic for this type of panel.

Tim gave an update on his work. He and Marge discussed the idea of having an inter-faith, youth-run presentation for Whole Community Wednesday (WCW.) There are about six youth in the peer-ministry program, and they might be interested in doing this. Peer ministry might start meeting less frequently than weekly. Small group sessions may have been the reason for greater turn-out at the last WCW. Dialog between youth and adults could also increase attendance, so there's a need for collaboration with children and adult programs. The youth group (grades 6-8) is going slowly and there needs to be more of an emphasis

on communication with the youth. About eight youth are in confirmation preparation.

Ellie gave an update on Whole Community and Wednesday for children. She said it is going well, catechists are doing fine, and they are using RCL books. Learning from recent events: don't meet the day before MEA meetings because there was low turnout. Eight or nine families will be in first communion preparation; several are not parishioners, which is fine. Ellie is looking at different curricula for next year. They are using Pflaum gospel newspapers this year.

5. It was mentioned that last year Faith Formation members had wanted to have a planning/listening retreat, but this didn't happen. In today's meeting there was much interest in scheduling this. We need to carefully plan for how to get input from the parish on Faith Formation activities. This will be a primary agenda item at our January meeting.
6. Faith Formation committee will not meet in December. We recommend moving January's meeting up to January 9. Gayle will ask FF members their availability for that date.
7. Mary Pat talked about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) follow-up from the November parish council meeting. She said that some time ago Parish Council approved a pre-school program and CGS was the pre-school program that was implemented. Currently about 10 children participate from St. Cecilia's participate in Cabrini's CGS program for elementary school children. There is a \$70 charge for this program. St. Cecilia's does not defray the cost of this program for parents.

Ellie questioned the need for two Virtus-trained adults in each room – rather than two Virtus-trained adults for each program. For example, in St. Cecilia's children's program, Ellie is the second adult; she walks in and out of the rooms where children are meeting. Ellie is St. Cecilia's Virtus contact. She will call the Archdiocese and get more specific information.

Discussion ensued on whether CGS was faith formation or religious education. In the Faith Formation listening sessions (see #5 above) we would like to get parents' input on this issue, where CGS fits in the wider issue of Faith Formation, and many other issues related to Faith Formation.

The committee decided to propose to Parish Council that we support a class of St. Cecilia's elementary school children who would attend CGS at Cabrini during the next school year. This would occur at a time (Wednesday) that is separate from the Cabrini children's meeting time. We recommended that Mary Pat and AnnaMary would bring several CGS parents to talk with Parish Council at its January meeting. (**Note:** After the meeting, this was corrected: the Parish Council had requested that this presentation be made first to the Finance Committee, not the council.)

8. The meeting ended before we discussed the agenda item on concerns about staff attendance at FF events