

Education Commission: minutes from the February 15, 2014 meeting:

Present: Peggy Casing, Janet Gerhard, Denis Naeger, Jennifer Neill, Suzie Phillips and Tom Wietchy.

Absent: none

Agenda

1. Reports
2. Ideas for Lent
3. Educational Goals
4. Preview of Matthew Kelly's Confirmation Program

REPORTS

At this point, no Preschool report has been submitted

Jennifer shared that HFRS is in the middle of registration right now. The deadline for families that are already enrolled was yesterday,. The fact that they are capping class sizes at 26 is a big help in encouraging registration. John Myers made a "state of the school" presentation that was well received. He has stated that St. Mary's preschool is a great feeder fo the school, and he and Carol Scott have been meeting regularly.

Marriage enrichment is offering "Six Dates for Catholic Couples." Consideration is being made for providing mentor couples fo couples that are in different/difficult situations, for example, couples in crisis, mixed or remarriage situations, etc. The marriage ministry tried to ge Dr. Tim Hogan to speak this year, but it did not work out. They have, however, made arrangements for Feb 7, 2015. Topic TBD.

All is well in RE, Peggy shared that the Middle School Program restructuring has gone very well, but we need to figure out how to best utilize Chris Kozlowski's time and talents so both middle and high school flourish.

Tom will post something in the bulletin about the happenings with Agape. He asked for the thoughts of the group on including information of what Ss. Cyril and Methodius have for young adults, 18-35 yrs. old. (They are strong in evangelization, homeschool, etc.) He posed the question if SMYG could conduct a movie night for youth and their families. He proposed Paulist Press for a source for these videos. The videos could serve as a jumping point for discussion. We will follow up with more discussion on this idea.

Suzie shared that previous discussion included the idea that there is a gap in post-Confirmation formation for teens. Acknowledging that SMYG does provide formation, the goal would be to "beef up" what we already have. The idea for this stemmed from Sherry Weddell's book, and it's mention of Christ the King Parish and their "strong" K-12 program, with its large outpouring of vocations to the priesthood and other ministry. If kisd come for this educational program, they could earn their "black belt" in Catholicism. Peggy shared that we'd have to hire someone to oversee such a program, or sunset something else, because the schedules of existing staff are already full.

IDEAS FOR LENT

Prayer- Attend Mass one additional day each week; attend Taise prayer; Listen to EWTN; offer our sufferings in union with Christ

Fasting- Give up alcohol, fast by eliminating snacks and limiting meals; Eat fish in Fridays
Almsgiving- CLT; CSA; doing something for someone else; making sacrifices for others, etc.

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

One of the goals was to beef up the middle and high school programs. (see above)

Flowing from the conversation about a movie night for families, Denis has offered to conduct a film viewing/discussion for families beginning in the fall. There wouldn't be a charge, and values oriented videos would be featured.

PREVIEW OF KELLY MATERIALS

Janet shared a video and information on Matthew Kelly's "free" program for Confirmation. Videos and leader materials can be downloaded from his site. His goal is to have Confirmation prep unified worldwide. Peggy will discuss the materials with Sherry Link (Coordinator of Children's Formation).

Father stopped by and mentioned that he has been in contact with a Macomb County group that is asking for our participation in a series of events that would pair us with an African-American, Muslim congregation from Detroit. These 4 gatherings would help us to learn more about each other. Members of the Christian Service Commission are interested.

Action Items:

Tom will submit young-adult articles for the paper.

Further plans for movie nights will be discussed as we get closer to fall.

Peggy will discuss the Matthew Kelly stuff with Sherry.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peggy Casing