

Education Commission- minutes from January 15, 2014 meeting:

Present: Janet Gerhard, Denis Naeger, Suzie Phillips, Tom Weitchy, Jennifer Neill

Absent: Peggy Casing

Old Business:

- We commented on the change of venue for the parish council meeting
- Denis discussed the Getting to Know Us project for the bulletin. Education Commission will be the 2nd commission to be featured. We discussed the report submitted by Janet Gerhard. Denis will use his creative writing abilities to make any changes to the report.

New Business

1. The Commission reviewed our Education Council Goals as they related to the AOD's sample Parish Council Goals for Education Commission. Most of the discussion related to the post confirmation grades of 9, 10, 11 and 12. Religious education is not required after students are confirmed in 8th grade. We are losing our students interest in the faith after 8th grade, as the only program offered with faith content is Youth Group.

We discussed at length the most effective methods for communicating with our youth. Effective methods included facebook, twitter, texting. We need to connect with our youth in the way that they connect with each other. Fr. Stan recommended the Commission listen to Busted Halo on EWTN or google Busted Halo. He also had the idea of having our youth directly text the Bishop to request to be confirmed.

There was lengthy discussion about Sister Simone Campbell, SSS presentation on February 26, 2014 at Oakland University and sponsored by the Pontiac Area Vicariate and Agape. She appears to be a controversial subject and both Denis and Suzie engaged in a very interesting discussion of the pro's and con's of the presenters history and message.

2. Ideas for Nominating process for commissions was tabled for Peggy Casings presence.

Follow up for Next Meeting

- Discussion on Educational Goals for 2014-2015
- Nominating process for Commissions

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Gerhard