

Education Commission: minutes from the March 12, 2014 meeting:

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

Agenda

1. Reports: Holy Family and Preschool
2. Movie night for teens/families
3. Ideas to “connect” with the youth
4. Feedback: Matthew Kelly’s Confirmation Program
5. Process for Nominating Committee

REPORTS

At this point, no Preschool report has been submitted

Jennifer shared that HFRS has been undergoing the process for next year’s registration. She is happy to say that registration has been strong. The 3rd grade is full. Deposits are due, so firm commitments will be known soon. 903 students are planned for budgeting purposes. 877 are currently registered, with a potential of 913. // School is in the process of revamping the parental involvement commitment. Currently there is NO mandatory service, but about 75% of Catholic schools do demand service. Discussions are underway.

MOVIE NIGHT

Denis will offer a six-week series of movies on Thursday nights (East Overflow), from 6:00-7:30. Featuring videos from “Spiritual Cinema Circle” the discussion will be adapted to the demographic of the group. There won’t be any charge for the event, and families will be encouraged to bring dinner/snacks as they see fit. Pre-registration will not be mandatory, but appreciated. Denis is offering this as a generous gift to the parish (no stipend)

IDEAS

The pope tweets daily. Anyone that “follows” him will get his tweets. Is this something we should encourage?

FEEDBACK

Peggy discussed the Matthew Kelly materials with Sherry Link. They find the materials to be a good resource. The Confirmation program has recently undergone a major revamp (with very positive results), so stability and consistency is currently a main focus. We may end up including links as part of emails to parents, utilizing the clips that are available online, and/or purchase and use “hard copy” DVD clips as part of the programming.

PROCESS

Denis will be finishing up with his position on the PAV. Our biggest task is to get information on the positions, and the process “out there.” Denis’ articles in the bulletin have helped. It may be good to have an “information Sunday” in April/May with ads for the positions. Silence after the homily, with pledge cards that are completed right in the pew. As we are seeking new members, Denis agreed that he would serve as chairperson next year if we could get another rep to take his place on the PAV. David Pauwels was mentioned.

VARIOUS

The response and attendance at Sr. Simone Campbell's talk (Held at Oakland University, on February 26, 2014) was good. About 200 participants were there, and AGAPE was happy to host.

On the last Thursday of September and the first Thurs. of October, Denis will lead a mentor couple training for our marriage program. We are striving to expand the support offered to those in various demographics (divorced, step-families, etc.) The Bethany (divorce) group will be meeting here in May.

Arrangements for a guest speaker have been made. On February 7th, 2015, Dr. Tim Hogan will offer a presentation at a catered dinner... possibly with music and dancing. He'll speak for about an hour. Dr. Hogan is a psychologist with a marriage/family practice in metro-Detroit.

Al Lacki (who once had a private counseling practice) was conducting counseling sessions, free of charge, in the parish. He has done this for the past several years, and now wants to step down. Denis has generously volunteered to take his place. He'll start making appointments at some point in the fall.

Father expressed the fact that the parish has received a 3K donation in order to buy an "Easter gift" for distribution at the Easter Masses. Ideas for what should be purchased are needed. A survey will be sent out to ask about the previous CD that was distributed, and to obtain ideas for the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peggy Casing