

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

Present: Peggy Casing, Janet Gerhard, Sam Guerra (youth rep), Denis Naeger, Suzie Phillips, Fr. Stan, and Tom Wietchy.

Absent: Jennifer Neill and Clem Valot

Resolved action items:

Janet and Peggy updated the programming chart from last year

The meeting began with a presentation from Joe Wydeven and Ms. Rupert, who are involved in Boy Scouts. They are requesting that St. Mary's "charter" a Cub Scout pack that will continue to meet at Brooklands Elementary School. There would be no net cost to the parish, and no building requirements. Discussion surrounded the need for participation in Protecting God's Children, and conducting criminal background checks (CBC)... or accepting the CBC already conducted by the Boy Scouts. It is suggested that we obtain a list of leaders, and legal concerns were raised regarding the actual commitment of chartering a group. The proposal was accepted, particulars will be discussed by Council and parish staff. Signatures will be issued through the office.

REVIEW OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS WITH A "WHY" ATTITUDE

In light of the "Rebuilt" conference and book, Peggy and Janet reviewed the listing of parish programs, Denis suggested changes, and the document was discussed. (The document follows) It was found that our existing programming has an attitude for evangelization. We talked with Sam about the Agape program, and what potential speakers young adults might be willing to "come out for." Suzie feels that a push for educational programs geared for high schoolers and young adults is needed. One suggestion would be to have someone come to talk about vocations. Tom brought up a current "Michigan Catholic" article featuring the Agape group.

PARISH EVALUATION PROJECT (HANDOUT BY SR. GRACE)

Tabled – no time

NEXT STEPS

Tabled – no time

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

NO REPORT FROM HFRS

PRESCHOOL REPORT EMAILED (FOLLOWING)

CHILDREN'S RE REPORT

Sherry Link wanted to make sure that everyone knows that the RE Office has moved forward on the proposal to staff and run an expansion of the Children's Liturgy of the Word Program, and Preschool RE during the Sunday morning Masses. She and Chris Kozlowski have been interviewing and new hires have been made. The child care room will begin operation on November 23rd. The preschool and CLOW expansion will begin after the first of the year.

HER REPORTS

Action



ing action.

Preschool News

Parish Council November 2014

We have just finished our first parent conferences for this year. Parents and teachers met during school time to discuss the progress of each individual child and were given a follow up plan that we prepare for the children. These early conferences help parents to see how their children are settling in and sets a partnership between the teachers and the parents for each individual child's learning plan.

Halloween was a fun time with our parades and we are grateful for the support of the office staff who dress up and provide candy for the children. We always take the children to the chapel on All Saints Day to explain how this is also a very special day.

Now we have been working on Thanksgiving and explaining the Pilgrim and Native American Stories. The children have planned to feast together as Native Americans and Pilgrims in the gym this week. They are cooking food for each other and learning about sharing. We have learned new Thanksgiving Prayers to say at our feast.

As we move into December our theme will be Advent and our first projects are making family Advent candles and prayers for the children to say at home with their families. I have attached some of our November calendars and newsletters so you can see what the children have covered this month.

Please let me know if you have any questions

Carol Scott, Preschool Director

See 4 other preschool handouts – separate email (would not import well into Word)

St Mary of the Hills
Education Programs
2014-2015

Program Name	Overview	Target Age	Comments
GIFT (Growing In Faith Together)	Religious formation for school age children grades K-5	5 through 11 and their parents	High school is handled as part of youth ministry, yet intentional mirroring of the GIFT topics in the sessions occurs during GIFT week.
MSP (Middle School Program)	Religious formation for those in 6-8 th grade. While primarily for the religious formation of public school students, it is open to Catholic school students as well	Middle School	
Preschool	Developmentally appropriate, academic based programs for children aged 3 and 4.	Ages 3 and 4	3 to 4 half-day curriculum, broad academic approach. Meeting weekdays.
***Preschool Religious Formation	Developmentally appropriate, faith based programs for children aged 3 and 4.	Ages 3 and 4	Faith based. Program currently being developed. Due to open January 2015.
***Child Care during Sunday Masses	Paid staff supervised care for children while their parents attend Mass. A “drop in” program with a maximum capacity / cut off point.	Ages 18-36 months	Beginning late fall of 2014.
Children’s Liturgy of the Word	An ***expanded program featuring the simplified version of the scripture readings at Sunday’s 9:00am and 11:00am Masses	Kindergarten to 4 th grade (5 to 10 years old)	Expansion underway. Currently running the week following Labor Day through the week prior to Memorial day of the following year
Holy Family Regional School	A representative from the HFRS board reports to the Education Commission, and works through them, and the appropriate staff members, to provide mutual support and communication	Young 5- 8 th grade	
Baptism Preparation	Preparatory classes for parents ready to have their child initiated into the Catholic Church, as well as preparation for older individuals	Birth and beyond	Deacon currently handles the parent classes. When a child is about 4 years, or older, RE handles the child’s preparation.

First Eucharist Preparation	Classes designed to support, educate, and provide materials so parents of candidates can properly assist their child's preparation and celebration of the sacrament, as well as children's sessions to convey content and build understanding as well as community.	2 nd grade, age 7-8, and older	The actual celebration is also prepared for, and overseen by RE staff
Reconciliation Preparation	Classes designed to support, educate, and provide materials so parents of candidates can properly assist their child's preparation and celebration of the sacrament, as well as children's sessions to convey content and build understanding as well as community.	2 nd grade, age 7-8, and older	The actual celebration is also prepared for, and overseen by RE staff
Confirmation Preparation	Provides 2 year preparation for candidates in grades 7 and 8 for the initiation into adult journey of faith	7 th and 8 th grade, age 12-14, or older	The actual celebration is also prepared for, and overseen by RE staff
Vacation Bible School	One week long bible school for school age children (summer)	Participants are children who are 4 years old by Dec. 1 st of that calendar year through those entering 5 th grade.	A large volunteer contingent (about 50 children and 20 adults) are involved. Youth volunteers are those entering 6 th grade through young adults
St. Mary Youth Group	An organization for high school students looking for an opportunity to have fun and learn, focusing on the upcoming week's scripture readings	High School	Year round programming, including assisting with the MSP.
Christian Classics Book Club	Members gather bimonthly to discuss Christian books	Adults	A new book discussed every other each month, other than December, July and August.
Book Club	Members gather weekly, for several months, to discuss one book, usually on spirituality. Usually two sessions each year	Adults	
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Members gather to knit or crochet shawls or scarves that will be given to parishioners who are facing a crisis or need	Adults	Thursday AM group, and Thursday PM group

Scripture Study (Six Groups)	Six bible study groups are offered for those who want to know more about the bible	Adults / Men/ Women / Spanish speaking	We have three groups following the Little Rock format, one women's group following the "Word on Fire" program, ***A men's group that focuses on the upcoming liturgical readings, and a Spanish, women's bible study. All meet weekly for most of the calendar year.
St. Mary of the Hills Bravehearts	Provides men a forum for discussion of various issues in the lives of men at St. Mary	Adult Men	Meeting in both a "large group" and "small group" format
RCIA (Rite of Christian initiation for Adults)	Training and guidance for initiation of members into the Catholic Church	Adults	
Adult Reception of Confirmation	Preparation for adults who have been formed in the Roman Catholic faith, and are active participants, yet for some reason, have not been Confirmed.	Adults	Preparation provided, and arrangements for celebration at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, or other venue.
Young Adult Group	Young adults meeting to form their faith and build fellowship	Adults	Currently suspended due to lack of participation. We refer young adults to the "Agape" program.
Agape Ministry	Support of the group meeting through St. John Fisher Parish ---in lieu of our own program	Adults	
Marriage Prep		Engaged Adults	Deacon handles some, other is handled through RE
Marriage Support	Referrals for Bethany (Archdiocesan-wide support group for divorced/separated Catholics) and Retrouvaille programming for troubled marriages as well as counseling offered, free of charge, by Denis Naeger	Married Adults	Denis Naeger, and others.
***Marriage Enrichment Team (MET)	Plans marriage enrichment activities.	Married Adults	Coordinated by Laura Corrión
Marriage Mentor	Meet with engaged couples to share wisdom and experience in dealing with marriage issues	Married Adults	

Marriage enrichment	Help marriage to become more meaningful and rewarding by offering programs and tools to help couples strengthen their marriage relationship	Married Adults	Marriage Encounter, Retrouvaille (see listing under “marriage support” as well.), and other enrichment programs
Catechist Formation	Classes to provide formation for those volunteering to teach religious formation classes, Catholic school teachers, and others involved in formation of children and adults	Adults	Currently following the “Echoes of Faith Plus” format. Participants can obtain certification through the Archdiocese of Detroit
Additional Adult Formation Opportunities	Periodic Offerings include, but are not limited to: “World Religions,” “Catholicism for Dummies,” “***Feast and Flick,” etc.	Adults	Ed. Comm. will assess the needs of the parish in this area
Annual Mission	Most, often, a multi-day event, coordination education, worship, inspiration, and fellowship	Usually Teen through Adults, though we have had a children’s component in the past	Sandra Mettucci was here March 6, 2013, Fr. Jack Conley April 5-8, 2014.
***Christ Life Program	Will begin January 2015. It is a comprehensive program for evangelization of participating parish members, as well as those that have never been a part of church, or have been away from the Church.	Adults	A large number of volunteers will be needed.
Education Commission / Parish Council	In addition to meeting participation, Director has usually been responsible for prayer and an educational component / currently under revision.	Adults	
Religious Liberty / Freedom	Most of the membership transferred to the Evangelization Committee. Not currently meeting.	Adults	
Vocations Awareness	Currently a committee that, most often, communicates through email to organize and promote vocation awareness	All Ages	
Peace and Justice	Special programming as promoted by the Peace and Justice Committee	Adult	Sr. Grace Keane oversees.

***new programs as of 2014