

Education Commission: minutes from the January 17, 2015 meeting:

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

Absent: Denis Naeger, and Jennifer Neill

Agenda

1. Speaker topics for youth
2. Guest speaker Kim Boismier from Agape
3. Next Steps

SPEAKER TOPICS

Ideas were generated:

- Tom Merlo talking about the Holy Spirit, or his call to ministry
- Dick Danforth talking about leadership in the parish
- Geraldine McClain about dealing with grief, sharing wisdom, faith, etc.
- A presenter on, “What defines us as Catholics?” – Knowing and understanding their Catholic faith
- A presenter on abortion. Maybe someone who chose to maintain an unwanted pregnancy, or had one and regretted it
- Suzie reintroduced the concept of a “black belt in Catholicism” for youth

It was discussed that we might draw youth on a few separate nights, as in a speaker series, if they are scheduled and well-advertised. Denis says one or two should be scheduled and well planned. Inviting the vicariate with an inviting title of topic would be important.

AGAPE

Tom introduced the coordinator of young adult ministry in our vicariate Kimberly S. Boismier (Agape Young Adult Coordinator, Pontiac Area Vicariate, (248) 906-857, agapepav@gmail.com). He explained that we are interested in offering support to the AGAPE ministry, and one way we support the ministry is through bulletin articles. Kim explained that AGAPE is looking for a new “home.” They are in need of a parish to handle the “business credentials” of the ministry. They will need to develop a board, with possible clergy, and a liaison from each of the vicariate parishes. They would also like to move their monthly Mass to St. Mary’s. They originally wanted to have them at St. Andrew, but it didn’t work out. The group is for 18-35 year-olds, and communication with them is key. Kim uses “Mail Chimp” as a method of communication, as well as two Facebook pages. She also uses “Hootsuite” to make one post to go across all of the media. Fr. Stan mentioned that time and space are always of concern in the building. It was mentioned that Fr. Jim Keane works with a Spanish young adult group at St. Damien Parish.

MISCELLANEOUS

Janet and Sam encouraged the use of a Twitter account for communication with the youth – we encourage setting up the platform.

Suzie made the clarification that Young adults are a different group than the teens. Teens would be addressed by a youth committee, not adult evangelization efforts. She stated that the Pontiac vicariate has the only paid "young adult" minister in the diocese.

The "Life in the Spirit" sessions, led by Dorothy Erickson, were mentioned. This series is a two night series (was held on Fridays), with testimony, praying over participants, etc. It was a powerful experience. (your minute taker is unsure what this topic was in reference to...)

NEXT STEPS

Tabled, yet... (see below)

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

NO REPORT FROM HFRS

NO PRESCHOOL REPORT

ACTION ITEM(S)

Topics should be chosen for teen topic series? ...then scheduled, advertised, etc? Also, who is going to follow up on the Agape business credential issue, or the Mass issue?

Respectfully Submitted,

Peggy Casing