

Education Commission: minutes from the March 14, 2015 meeting:

Present: Peggy Casing, Janet Gerhard, Denis Naeger, Suzie Phillips, Clem Valot and Tom Wietchy.

Absent: Sam Guerra (youth rep), and Jennifer Neill,.

YOUTH

It was mentioned that anything we do for youth should go through Chris so it can be coordinated with his efforts. An extra night, above and beyond Wednesdays, is a huge challenge, and probably won't be productive. There is some talk of an evangelization night, run through the vicariate, at St. Andrew. They'd offer a pizza party, and possibly a vocation series.

Tom mentioned Agape's theme is "anointing you." They'll be discussing the concept of vocations, with a panel discussion with three religious. At St. Hugo's there is an AA based program called i.d. 9:16 – whose mission is to form intentional disciples of Christ. One of their tag lines, taken from scripture, is "woe to me if I do not preach the gospel. St. Cyril and Agape have knowledge of this young adult ministry.

Clem and Suzie talked about discovering Christ, and the fact that they took a survey, with 59 responses. Most of the responses were very positive, though the responses from younger participants seemed to be more critical. 9.4 out of 10 would recommend the program to others. The breakdown of those attending the follow-up session, divided by age, are as follows: 15-29 year olds-100%, 30-44 year olds- 83%, 45-64 year olds- 61%, 64+-33% Getting the next series scheduled has been an issue, due to building usage. 80, or so, were at the last meeting. Those that attended the retreat were the most committed to the future sessions. The youth appreciated having a youth leader. Every dinner cost the parish \$500, but \$1,500 was collected. The group is trying different techniques to increase the results. Good lessons were learned. Janet shared her experience of St. Irenaeus' hot breakfast every week.

Denis affirmed that what Chris does is far, and above, what other parishes offer. Clem said, "Maybe it is what we can do to help SMYG, and not about an extra program."

Denis shared that the "Romantic Evening for Two" went well, and he hopes for it to become an annual event. The 2nd "annual" is scheduled for the Saturday of Valentine's weekend (13th). The "Wine Down" is scheduled for Saturday, February 6th, except the Christ Life retreat is scheduled for the same day. There also seems to be a conflict with Stephen Ministry. As always, we need to look at the calendar in order to juggle these events.

Agape is now being "housed" here. (financials, etc.)

Complaints were made that the gym is "still" a gym. Acoustics would be better if it was converted to a carpeted meeting space with window treatments, etc. The CLT program fell short, by over 1 mil. that would be needed for that type of renovation. It was mentioned that Marriage Enrichment was "pulled back" due to scheduling issues, and it was suggested that St. Vincent DePaul should consider moving their "Wine Down" to January so people wouldn't have to choose one, or the other. Laura or Denis will approach them. It was stated, "We can't be all things to all people." It was also noted that the Building Committee will meet on Monday, April 27th.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

NO REPORT FROM HFRS



Preschool News

Parish Council March 2015

We held our annual Fun Run fundraiser last week. The children really enjoyed taking part and just recently asked when they could do it again! We were well supported by our families and are using the money raised by the Fun Run to provide the children with Tablets to replace the old computers we have. We have raised over three thousand dollars so we are very excited to begin integrating the tablets into our program. We are sending thank you letters to all of our parents and the teachers are meeting to decide on the learning programs they would like on the tablets and any other classroom materials they need for the children.

The three-year-old classes are learning about community helpers this month. They had visits from a local dentist who spoke about healthy teeth and from the Community Liaison Officer who talked about fire safety. They are also visiting the Rochester Hills Fire Station. We encourage the children to think about Lent and how they can be kind to others during this special time.

Our four-year classes are also covering the themes of Lent and Easter. The children made their Lenten promises and visit the church weekly to pray. We are making books covering the Easter story and helping the children to understand the importance of this special time of the year.

Our Open House was very successful with a large number of visitors. Many families showed interest in our new Pre-Kindergarten programs offering five and four day sessions in the four year old classes and two and three day sessions in the three year old classes. We held our registration recently and have only 9 openings in the four year old classes and the three year old classes have almost filled in the morning classes. We are working on advertising and promoting the threes afternoon class which usually is slow to fill.

This summer we are planning to run Summer Enrichment Classes again for our currently enrolled children. We are offering two classes for our four-year-olds to prepare them for kindergarten and two classes for our three-year-olds to cover the skills for the four year old classes.

Mrs. Willcock resigned in January to pursue other paths in which she was interested. She had been at the preschool for a long time and we had a luncheon celebrating her time at Saint Mary of the Hills Preschool and letting her know how thankful we were for all she has done for the preschool.

We are covering the basic office work with some of our assistant teachers and I will continue to provide the overall administrative direction and planning for the preschool.

Thank you for your support and interest in the preschool,

Carol Scott, Preschool Director

ACTION ITEM(S)

Denis, or Laura, to approach SVDP on moving their event to January.

Next meeting: APRIL 25, 2015

Respectfully Submitted,

Peggy Casing