

## St. Mary's of the Hills Education Minutes, 10-17-2015

PRESENT: Samantha Guerra, Denis Naeger, Meghan Schuler, Suzie Phillips, Tom Wietchy, Kim Boismier, Fr. Stan, and Peggy Casing.

ABSENT: Mary Davis, Clem Valot, Jennifer Neal.

1. Our chairperson Samantha Guerra opened the meeting asking for a recap of the September meeting. Among things discussed at the September meeting was that Suzie Phillips brought up the fact that in the Lansing diocese there was a pre/post test that was given at the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade religious education program that gauged the knowledge/progress of each student. If the student achieved well, they were awarded a certificate. Suzie asked if this could be done in the St. Mary's program, not to single out students, but rather to assess the progress of the students. At this October meeting she followed up last month's meeting with the thought: "is there anything we can do to improve what we are doing?" Further discussion continued. Peggy brought up the fact that in the St. Mary's Gift Program religious formation is a considered as lifelong goal. Students, in conjunction with the Gift Program, have their parents, their parish priest, our parish as a whole, and the worldwide church as their teacher. Peggy stated that in consultation with Fr. Stan that it was decided that the program would not have a pass/fail concept. Discussion followed about how teaching to the "mind" might not affect the "heart" and other issues which dealt with difficulties involved in the teaching of morality and ethics. Suzie reiterated she wanted to use the test more as a teaching tool and hoped that her questions were not intended to reflect negatively on what was being done at St. Mary's.
2. Denis reminded everyone that as part of the Parish Marriage Ministry he would be doing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Romantic Evening for Two (Saturday, February 13, 2016 from 6-10PM). The evening will include a guest speaker from U of D Jesuit. Denis will also host a Film Series on 4 Tuesday evenings (February 16 – March 8, 2016) from 7-9PM. Tom mentioned that he has found the film media to be a powerful impact in teaching Christian values. Denis reiterated that fact and gave some memorable moments when that was the case.

3. Kim Boismier highlighted the progress of Agape as the Group settles into their new home at St. Mary's. Agape is the vicariate voice for the Young Adult Ministry within our Pontiac Vicariate hosting a Monthly Mass at St. Mary's, a monthly Theology on Tap at Mr. B.'s (Racki McCormick will speak on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and Mike Lefevre on December 7<sup>th</sup> ). Kim announced that soon the Theology on Tap series would move from Monday's to Thursday's to better serve its members. Kim mentioned that October 23-25 would be the group's fall retreat, followed in January by a winter retreat near the end of the month. The Group will have its Harvest for Hope Dance on November 7<sup>th</sup> at St. John Fisher. November 11<sup>th</sup> will be the date for its next Mass and Bash. On November 21, Agape will have a group service opportunity at Hope Warming Center. Speaking about Adult Activities, Meghan Schuler shared that some St. Mary's SMYG parents and former SMYG alumni formed SPARC (SMYG Parents Alumni Recreation Committee). There will be a meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss future activities and possible service projects for the Group. There is a possibility that this SPARC group would compliment some of Agape's activities.
4. Peggy closed the meeting with some announcements about a program about Eucharist 101. Some mention was made about the MSP (Middle School Program) leading up to SMYG. Some SMYG High School members have been mentoring the middle school group. There is also the hope that members of the SMYG group would move into the Agape group. Peggy also announced that St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Parish in Troy would be hosting a Praise and Worship service on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Wietchy