

St. Mary's of the Hills Education Commission Minutes, 12-19-2015

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

Absent: Clem Valot, Jennifer Neill.

1. Peggy opened the meeting by and had Denis read Jennifer Neill's Holy Family Report. Jennifer began her report by saying that she was trying to get to today's meeting, but was unable to attend. She reported that there was not much news, except that the School was waiting for AOD approval regarding the purchase of some acreage adjacent to the school, possibly for the purpose to include an athletic field and perhaps a small addition to the school should HFRS consolidate to one campus. She also stated that there will be a 4% tuition increase for 2016/17. This year's Christmas outreach was a shoe collection netting over \$1,000.00 for CCRT, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Detroit, and a school in Kenya.
2. Peggy then discussed Carol Scott's Pre School report. Carol stated that the children were involved in Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Advent activities.
3. Kim Boismier reported on the policy for posting to Social Media. Kim said that right now there was no policy at present and that Chris Drouin posts information he garners from the Bulletin and the St. Mary's website on the Facebook page. Kim related sending pictures and the importance of getting more pictures on the Facebook page. One can contact Chris Drouin at his company (his personal email: chris@socialmedia.com) The address for social media at St. Mary's is: socialmedia@smoth.org. Right now there is no social media policy, but Father Stan, Chris Kozlowski, Dan Greig, Judy Rhodes, and Chris Drouin are serving on that committee to create one. St. Mary's does not have open posting, Chris Drouin is the Administrator. According to Kim, Social Media tends to be "organic" unless someone controls it. The group agreed that there needs to be a Plan in place for the posting of information on Social Media. Perhaps there could be a separate staff person responsible for getting information from the bulletin, the Narthex postings, the St. Mary's website, and other social media and post it to our Facebook page.
4. Dennis Naeger brought up a flyer in this week's Bulletin discussing a group titled "After Your Divorce" headed by Karen Evangelista which starts at St. Mary's on January 14th at 7PM and continues for 12 weeks. Suzie reiterated that she thought it is important to publish not only St. Mary's activities in our media outlets, but also those of other parishes in the vicinity. Many agreed that the local newspaper "Community Lifestyles" will tend to publish church related activities more than the Rochester Post.
5. There was a brief discussion of Vicariate happenings and politics, its actions/inactions.
6. Peggy briefly highlighted the RCIA program and the larger numbers of people participating—10 this year. She also related some of the real challenges that determine what phase of the Program a candidate should be placed in: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, or all of the above. From time to time the AOD checks as to a candidate's status. Peggy emphasized her philosophy that her goal is to have the

candidates build a relationship with Jesus first, then deal with the particular teachings of the Church. She tries to get them involved in all the different aspects of the Parish and make them part of the Community, in addition to the catechetical teachings.

7. Agape mentioned that there would be activities in the Parish on December 26th (a post Christmas gathering) and on January 9th, the monthly Mass at St. Mary's.
8. Suzie gave some feedback on the library cart and the quality of its reading materials. She stated that the Evangelization Committee had a survey box on the cart. Some parish member responded that there are a lot of good items on the Library cart. A person replied that the materials on the cart, some of which are those that Peggy uses in her classes, are "excellent."
9. The Meeting then adjourned at 9:30AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Wietchy