

St. Mary's Education Commission Minutes, 11-16-2016

1. Attendance: Present:

Present: Peggy Casing, Samantha Guerra, Mary Davis, Meghan Schuler, Kim Boismier, Tom Wietchy, Denis Naeger.

Absent: Suzie Phillips (Attending another parish council meeting), Jennifer Neill, Clem Valot

2. Chairperson Samantha Guerra began the meeting by asking the Commission to review all Education commission programs (program name, overview, target age, comments) as described in the Education Commission's 2014-2015 Report put together by Janet Gerhardt and Peggy Casing as a "frame of reference." The group quickly agreed with the description for GIFT (Growing in Faith Together), MSP (Middle School Program), Preschool, Preschool Religious Formation, Child Care during Sunday Masses, Children's Liturgy of the Word, and Holy Family Regional School. This Review was briefly interrupted by a discussion of the workings of the Pontiac Area Vicariate and the politics and funding of that body, especially as it relates to the Agape, CCRT, Pavel, and the Chaplaincy programs. There was a feeling that there needs to be new leadership at the Vicar level to right the ship. Fr. Stan came in and added that for any priest to take on that task requires almost forty hours a month of extra work, something that most folks do not take on easily. Kim mentioned that in spite of budgeting and other questions, she is committed to staying with the Agape program and make it work. She felt that her support from St. Mary's in regards to Agape makes her job so much more easy.
3. There was a brief discussion about the Education Commission and some other related education issues that were being handled by other commissions: the Fellowship commission was speaking to young parents about children/family issues; the Evangelization Commission was handling the Parish Mission which will deal with the Year of Mercy. Karen and Anna Dudek along with Peggy are working together on the yearlong aspects of the Year of Mercy. Kim mentioned that the Theology of Tap talks will be focusing on the theme of Mercy. After the above clarification, the Commission then continued reviewing the wording of: the Baptism/First Eucharist/ Reconciliation/ Confirmation/Vacation Bible/St. Mary's Youth Group descriptions. The same was true about the Christian Classics Book Club run by Peggy and the Book Club run by John Griffith. Peggy said that the Prayer Shawl Ministry is not strictly an "education" commission function, but it remains here since she oversees it. There was also

agreement about the descriptions for: Scripture Study, St. Mary of the Hills Bravehearts, RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), and Adult Reception of Confirmation.

4. The Group thought that next categories “Young Adult Group” and “Marriage” needed some revamping. The Young Adult Group 18-35 (the Program Name) should have its Description as something like: “Agape Community: Young Adults meet to form their Faith and build Fellowship”. The next category “Agape” is already included in the previous citation and could be dropped. Kim added that in addition to the Agape’s monthly Saturday Mass and their monthly Thursday “Theology on Tap,” she wants to introduce in March on the first Monday of the month a “Coffee and Catechism” with Msgr. Mike LeFevre. She also mentioned that this next weekend’s Winter Retreat at Subiaco will host about 50 Young Adults. Following this was a discussion about “Marriage” and its Program Descriptions. Denis mentioned that these category titles were confusing and redundant. A possible correction would be Program Name: “Marriage Prep” with a Description: “Marriage Mentor (Married adults) meet with engaged couples to share wisdom and experience in dealing with marriage issues. “Marriage Support” and “Marriage Enrichment” can remain the same. Denis Naeger, please comment, if you agree? All of the remaining Program names on page 4 remain intact, except for the “Religious Liberty/Freedom entry—that should be deleted. The Group did good work reviewing and commenting on four pages of Education Commission programs.
5. Dennis ended the meeting by announcing that he is hosting a Film Series—two Tuesday’s in February and two in March that highlights films with human and spiritual values.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Wietchy