

St. Mary's Education Commission Minutes, 10-15-2016

Attendance: Present: Samantha Guerra, Meghan Schuler, Tom Wietchy, Peggy Casing, Suzie Phillips, Cheryl Garneau. Absent: Matthew Ongcapin

1. Chairperson Samantha Guerra opened the meeting and passed out a Handout listing the **Old Business** (1. Youth Mass and 2. Stewardship Weekend) and **New Business** (1. Religious Education update. 2. Holy Family Regional School. 3. Evangelization). Under Old Business, since Matthew Ongcapin is not here, discussion about a Youth Mass will be put on hold until he returns and the group can get his input on the idea. The Stewardship weekend is scheduled for October 22nd and 23rd to be held after the 5PM Saturday Mass and the 9AM and 11AM Sunday Masses. Members of the Education Commission Samantha Guerra and Meghan Schuler will be at a Social Media Table hopefully near the Education Commission table trying to inform the parish members about the different Social Media available to spread the Parish's message. There was a question about a Youth Rep and an Education Rep for the Stewardship Weekend. Tom mentioned that he would volunteer on Sunday to sit at the Education Commission table after the 9:00AM and 11:00AM Masses.
2. Under New Business: our **Holy Family Regional School** Representative Cheryl Garneau pointed out that HFRS has now started a new Fund Raising Appeal to all sponsoring Parishes within the Vicariate and for all their parishioners to consider supporting Catholic Education and HFRS. There was a Golf Fundraiser in the early fall, and there will be a big Auction fundraiser for the school in February. In addition, she stated that there will be an informational meeting for those interested in the Young 5's and kindergarten programs on November 2nd and an Open House for all interested families on Sunday, January 22nd. Our **Director of Religious Education** Peggy Casing then spoke on the status of our different Religious Education Programs. The Gift Program for K-8 students is in its second month of studies, this month focusing on a unit about the SAINTS. The Epic Foundational Study will meet on selected Sundays at 12:15PM during the fall and winter to discuss leading Church heroes and other key moments in Church History. In addition, there are Bible studies centering around the Gospel of St. Matthew and a Faith sharing group built around St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians. The RCIA continues to meet on Sunday mornings. Peggy shared that this year's Confirmation class of 2017 will have about 100 students receive the sacrament, while next year's class of 2018 will be smaller at about 60 students. Discussion then turned to Suzie Phillips report on **Evangelization**. Suzie first reported that at our Pontiac

Vicariate meeting our new Pontiac Vicar, Fr. Jim Kean of St. Damien was introduced. She was pleased with Fr. Kean and what he would bring to the Vicariate. She reported that about 30 adults are involved in this fall's Discover Christ program. She gave feedback on Matthew Kelly's visit to St. Andrew's a few weeks back. In commenting about an earlier discussion the group had about Woodside Church, Suzie commented that Matthew Kelly said that Catholics have been too timid about spreading and selling their Catholic Faith. She stated that Kelly said that this next generation of our children and its faith formation is up for grabs. If Catholics do not seize on the opportunity, other denominations will. She stated that Kelly said that only 7% to 10% of Catholics are really engaged. Kelly said that Catholics should: 1. Hunger for Best Practice. 2. Be involved in Continuous Learning. 3. Sign up for more Education. At the meeting end, Meghan Schuler reported on the status of Social Media in the parish and found more people are using social media to get their information about the Parish through that format.

The Meeting ended as the Parish Council Meeting was about to begin.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Wietchy