

St. Mary's Education Commission Minutes, 9-17-2016

1. Attendance:

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

Absent: Matthew Ongcapin

2. Chairperson Samantha Guerra opened the meeting and introduced Cheryl Garneau who is the new representative from Holy Family Regional School. As part of Old Business, Samantha wanted to explain that Chris Droulin and his company no longer run St. Mary's Social Media postings. Now two Education Commission members, Samantha Guerra and Meghan Schuler are responsible for the postings to Facebook and Instagram. Both have encouraged parish members to send "pictures" and go on Facebook and press "like-it" to allow more people to get information about St. Mary's from Facebook. This should help Facebook reach out to more members of the parish.

3. Samantha moved on to "New Business." listing the present Education Committee's

Structure:

-Chairperson: Samantha Guerra

-Vice Chair: Meghan Schuler

-Secretary: Tom Wietchy

-Parish Council Rep: Samantha Guerra

Youth Mass:

Samantha then brought up the topic of a Youth Mass mentioned during last spring's meeting by Matthew Ong Papih. Matthew saw the need for more youth involvement and presented the idea that the youth of the parish should put on a Youth Mass and plan, prepare, and staff it. Then the group discussed when this could happen: Sunday, Monday, or Wednesday? Some mentioned that if it were Monday evening, there would be no need for a separate Mass since Fr. Stan is the celebrant of the Monday evening Mass. Whatever time/day is chosen, there was a comment that it should be coordinated with Chris Kozlowski of SMYG.

4. **Religious Education:**

Samantha then asked Peggy Casing to briefly review the Religious Education Program for the beginning of the year. Peggy mentioned that the **Gift Program** began the weekend of September 11, the theme for the year being, "the Liturgical Year." The **Middle School**

Program (M.S.P.) will soon begin with usually two meetings a month. The Middle School Program is the new title of what used to be the Junior Youth Group (J.Y.G.). The program is geared for public school kids; however, Holy Family students are welcome. Of course, the **St. Mary's Youth Group (SMYG)** run by Chris Kozlowski is focused on senior high youth. The **Children's Sunday Morning program** of babysitting for toddlers and catechism for K-6th Grade continues with Mary Davis and Martha trying to use scripture ideas, songs and themes taken from the weekly Readings. As announced last year, Peggy mentioned that the **R.C.I.A.** has moved to Sunday's and takes place during and after the 9A.M. Mass and is slowly getting into its rhythm. Peggy is still seeking volunteers to help fill different positions within the Program. Also, a new Bible study on the Gospel of St. Matthew is forming this fall meeting on Wednesdays in the morning and on Monday's nights. In addition Peggy will present a history of the Church called the "Epic Foundational Study" on selected Sunday's at 12:30PM throughout the year. Mention was made of the Awaken Speaker series dealing with Evangelization and the upcoming Stewardship Fair coming up on Saturday, October 1st. Cheryl Garneau briefly mentioned that Holy Family Regional School has 3 Appeals throughout the year with the Fall Appeal coming on October 1st and 2nd.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Wietchy