

St. Mary's Education Commission Minutes, 3-18-2017

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

1. Meghan Schuler passed along Samantha's Agenda. Under **Old Business**: Matt reported that the "Youth Mass" is still scheduled for Saturday, April 22 at 5PM. Everything seems to be in place. He wants to make sure there are enough Eucharistic Ministers and Ushers. Meghan mentioned that there is parish training for Eucharistic Ministers on Sunday, March 26 from 12:15PM to 12:45PM after the 11AM Mass should any of the teens like to attend. Suzie reported on Vocations saying that the Archdiocese of Detroit sent her information on upcoming discernment weekends for young men wishing to attend. Suzie mentioned that from time to time she would like to put in an informational article on Vocations in the Bulletin or on the St. Mary's website. There was a short discussion when Suzie asked Meghan to clarify what would be best way to convey her Vocation Information--the Bulletin, the website, or social media. What followed was a nice discussion on the pluses and minuses of each format. As far as Social Media, it was mentioned that Meghan and Samantha sometime this summer might like to discuss the routing of information from Social Media through the St. Mary's information network with Fr. Stan and his Media Panel.
2. As far as **New Business**, Tom shared some information on the work of one of his former teachers who wrote about "The Second Fifty: Spirituality in Later-Life Issues." The article looked to Hindu philosophy which saw the final stage of life, old age, as a time of wisdom and perspective. This contrasted with the American notion that once one passed their prime, they were heading "downhill." The article stated that Christians have an opportunity to use this time to build on their faith and develop strategies as they ready themselves for the Christian belief in Eternal Life. Tom mentioned that the commentary for Ash Wednesday in the Lenten Little Black made mention of similar ideas. Tom just wanted to throw out these ideas and maybe have the commission look into the future and see if there might be a need and an opportunity to introduce any of these ideas into our educational programs. Others agreed that it was worth the look.
3. The Group then looked to give an "Update" on some of the Commission's programs. Peggy mentioned that the Religious Education budget is being developed, and there is the need to stay within Budget and keep within the Funding limits. Spring sacraments and Gift continue to progress on schedule. Suzie spoke about the Evangelization effort and that their group will continue their Booth at Borden Park for the Firework's Event.

They will work with Chris Kozlowski on the Night Fever event which is held at the Church as part of the Firework's Night at Borden Park. Suzie stated that The Night Fever contact is Chris Gawel from the AOD Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry. Suzie also felt that the Church should do more to acknowledge the effort of Altar servers and also see that the numbers among altar servers might grow. Matt ended the meeting with an idea that he felt our parish could be run just like a business aiming to be more efficient and aim to fill the needs of our target groups. He said he had gotten some ideas from his Economics class. We asked him to share some of his ideas on how he feels these might benefit our Education Commission. He said he will follow up at our next meeting.

4. The Meeting ended at 9:40AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Wietchy