

St. Mary's Education Commission Minutes, 4-22-2017

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

1. Samantha began the meeting by passing out the Education Commission Agenda. Under **Old Business:** There was discussion about the upcoming Youth Mass that was taking place this Saturday afternoon at the 5PM Mass. Peggy mentioned that she had worked with some Youth Group members on the Prayer of the Faithful. Meghan mentioned about the work and practice that the participants had gone through and that this would be good training for them as Young Adults. There was also some discussion about the Survey the Parish had taken about the 4PM Winter Mass Schedule. Some were wondering if the 4PM Saturday Mass would continue during the winter time slot or stay at the 5PM time slot all year around? Peggy mentioned that while there was better attendance at that 4PM Mass during this past winter, there still was no decision as to whether the winter Mass time would remain at 4PM. While the 4PM Winter Mass had a larger attendance, the total Mass attendance had dropped. On another topic Tom brought up Matt's comments at the end of the last month's meeting about whether it would be better if the Church followed a business model that he learned from his high school Economics class. This model mentioned that the organization had to tailor its focus on the needs of its clients and satisfy those needs. Tom just wanted to ask Matt to know if Matt were speaking from a theoretical point of view or wanted to offer this as a strategy for St. Mary's to follow. Tom suggested that we might ask Matt that question when he returns.
2. Under **New Business,** there was discussion about making sure the Education Commission is open to seeking out new members. Samantha said that there should be an announcement saying that at their June meeting, the Education Commission is welcoming parishioners to attend the Education Commission meeting. Meghan was asked to help to get that message out.
3. The commission then went on to **Updates:** Peggy mentioned that the Archdiocese Board of Education Office has passed new proposals for schools, especially in the teaching of Religious Education. The thrust of these new proposals is that while content in the teaching of Religious Education is important, just as important is that students bear "witness" to their religion. It is just not enough for a child to learn about their Faith, but also to show a "witness" to that Faith. These guidelines affect both the Catholic Schools and the public schools as to their knowledge about the Church's

Teachings. Concerning Agape, there was voiced the hope that the Education Commission could have Agape's sponsor Kim Boismiers attend our May meeting to update the Education commission on the happenings of Agape. There have been rumors that the Agape group will not be funded next year by the Vicariate. The Commission wants to hear from Kim as to Agape's status, and if there would be anything the St. Mary's Education Commission could do to help both her and the Agape group. Earlier in the meeting Tom had said he would try to talk to Denis Naeger and see if Dennis thought there were any merit to sponsoring a program on "Spirituality in the Later Years" and the possibility of having some form of that program for next year.

4. The Meeting ended at 9:40AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Wietchy