

St. Mary's Education Commission Minutes, 5-20-2017

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

1. The Commission began with a discussion under **Old Business** of the Youth Mass held in April. The consensus of those who attended was that the Youth Mass went well. This was a good opportunity for the youth of the parish to get more training for their upcoming role as Young Adults. They need the experience to plan an activity and focus on their task. Samantha then mentioned the possibility of trying to add two new members to our Education Commission.
2. Under **New Business** Samantha wanted to discuss and fill in the following Education Commission positions for the 2017-2018 Parish Council: the Chairperson, the Commission Representative to the Parish Council, and the new Core Members. Samantha said that she would continue as Chairperson since she would be filling out the second year of her two year term. Concerning the Education representative to the Parish Council, Meghan said that she would need to wait and see if she is not the at-large representative to the parish council, then she would be the representative to the parish council from the Education Commission since she wants to remain on the Parish Council Executive Board. Samantha briefly discussed the new role of Core Member as designated by the Parish Council. She wanted the members to see if they might want to be that Core Member from the Education Commission. She wants to fill that position(s) by the June meeting.
3. Attention then turned to our Vicariate's Young Adult Ministry Agape and its coordinator Kim Boismiers who was at the meeting to give the Education Commission an overview of what has happened with the Group and what Kim sees as the future of Agape. Kim mentioned that she took over the group over three years ago when the former director Lisa Brown move to the Director of Religious Education at Christ the Redeemer parish in Auburn Hills. Kim moved the Monthly Mass over to St. Mary's from St. John Fisher parish. The group still has some functions at St. John's. Kim listed some of the Activities the group is involved in: the Bi-yearly Retreats (a big success), the monthly mass at St. Mary's, Coney's and Conversation, Theology on Tap, and a Young Adult couples' ministry. Kim then listed a number of issues that have come up with the Group in the last three years that have put Agape in a tenuous situation. The most important factor has been the lack of financial and emotional support from the Vicariate. Kim's stipend and money that supports the group's work seems to be

ending. This happens as other Young Adult groups within the archdiocese seem to be having problems sustaining themselves. It's been hard to put a finger on exactly what the reason is, but the lack of vicariate support is putting Agape in a difficult position as far as being a viable organization. Kim thanked the Education Commission for their support and will be updating the group on what the status of Agape will be in the near future. She did share a wonderful video of the work of Agape, very professional and meaningful. She shared that in 2018 there will be a Young Adult Synod.

4. In Education Commission "Updates," mention was made that there will be two meetings among five different parishes in the Vicariate concerning possible help and sponsorship for Refugee Family(s) within the Vicariate. The date for the meetings in the East Overflow will be May 22nd and June 4th. Cheryl reported that Holy Family Regional School (HFRS) is involved in the regular "End of the Year" activities. Susie spoke about her wish to have someone in the parish keep up the discussion of vocations within the parish. She stated that it appears that "Vocations" is either supported by "Evangelization and Catechesis", or it could be its own "mission priority." She stated that what we need is someone to take on this ministry -- keeping the need for vocations in the forefront, and informing parishioners of upcoming opportunities for learning and discernment. It appears now, that under the current AOD organization, this could be administered by either Education or Evangelization. On another issue Tom briefly mentioned that he spoke with Denis Naeger about the topic, "Spirituality in Later Years," and Denis is looking to see if he has any ideas about making a presentation sometime next year. Also, Meghan and Samantha will be trying to coordinate our Social Media outreach over the summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Wietchy