

St. Mary's Education Commission Minutes, 6-17-2017

Attendance: Present: Samantha Guerra, Cheryl Garneau, Tom Wietchy, Susie Phillips, Meghan Schuler, Peggy Casing, Matthew Ongcapin, Tamara Warburton.

1. Under **Old Business** Samantha began by introducing our new member Tamara Warburton. There are two more potential new members, Elizabeth West and Kevin Martin. Samantha will contact them in the fall and ask them to join our first meeting in September. Samantha said that she will be continuing as the Education Commission chairperson and will also be a Core Member along with Susie Phillips and Cheryl Garneau. Tom will continue next year as Secretary. As Susie stated last meeting, she is still looking for someone to head the Vocations position coordinating with the Archdiocese to pass along vocation information to the parish during the upcoming year.
2. Under **New Business**, Samantha mentioned that the Education Commission will need to send a representative to the Newcomer Luncheon on Sunday, July 23rd after the 11AM Mass. Peggy Casing volunteered. Matt Oncapin stated that as a graduating senior he will be leaving the Education Commission as the Youth Representative. He thought that there will probably be three different Youth members rotating in that position. Matt stated that on Saturday, July 1st, there will be a Youth Mass at the 5PM Mass as part of the Youth's SAW participation that week. SAW is SMYG's yearly community service project to the Vicariate community. Peggy Casing then updated us on Religious Education. She stated that the Vacation Bible School scheduled from June 19 -23 was completely filled. At the time of the meeting, Pre School just had 5 open slots for the Fall Program. Peggy also announced that she and her staff will be moving from the Parish Office to what is now Laura Corion's Volunteer Office in the fall. Cheryl Garneau reported on Holy Family Regional School. She stated that Fundraising Events went well and enrollment was down a little for the new year at 825 students. There was some closing discussion on Agape, the Young Adult Program of the Vicariate. Mention had been made at the previous meeting, when Agape's Kim Boismier was present, that there has been a group within the Vicariate hierarchy that is not sold on the importance of the Agape program and has not been willing to support Agape financially. For these reasons, Kim will no longer be involved in the Agape Program. Susie brought up the Agape situation at the June Vicariate meeting. At the Vicariate Pastoral Council, the group expressed full support for continuing to support Agape. Susie added that a committee was formed to take the need to individual parish councils

in order to maintain the necessary funding. These issues will be discussed at the September meeting. Tom pointed out that our Vicariate experience with a Young Adult Program mirrors those of other parish Young Adult organizations in the Northern and Northeast suburbs. As was stated in the previous month's meeting, there are many different reasons why it has been hard to keep a viable program for Young Adults. As an editorial note from Tom, some recent conversations with young adults seem to point out that the wide range of age, 18 to 35, seems to take away from cohesiveness. That and the mobile nature of Young Adults seem to add to the challenge. All that being said, Susie's wish to bring this issue up with the Vicariate Council gives some hope that the Agape Program might at least be discussed in the fall meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Wietchy