

St. Mary's Education Commission Minutes, 9-16-2017

Attendance: Present: Tom Wietchy, Meghan Schuler, Peggy Casing, Sam Corrion. Absent: Samantha Guerra, Cheryl Garneau, Susie Phillips, Tamara Warburton

1. Under **Old Business**: At the June meeting there was a discussion about the possibility of adding new members to the Education Commission. Tamara Warburton visited the June meeting with the thought of becoming a new member of the Commission. She was absent this September meeting so we are not sure of her status. Also, at the June meeting Samantha spoke about the possibility of a few more potential new members. Samantha said that she would contact them in the fall and ask them to join our first meeting in September. Samantha was absent so we are not sure of their status. Meghan mentioned that Susie was still looking to fill the position of the Parish Vocation Representative. Peggy mentioned that she would advertise in her column the need for a Vocation Representative.
2. Under **New Business**, the group was happy to welcome Sam Corrion as the new Saint Mary's Youth Group (SMYG) representative to replace the graduated Matt Oncapin. Sam is a senior at Rochester High and is the son of Ken and Laura Corrion, longtime parish members. After Sam's introduction a discussion began on the need to support our Young Adult program in the Vicariate even though the Kim Boismier has left the Agape program. Susie had stated at our June meeting that at last spring's Vicariate meeting that the Vicariate stated that they supported keeping the Young Adult program and that a committee was formed to pass along the importance of each parish to help fund and support the endeavor. With that in mind Tom reported that he had written a Letter to the Editor of the Michigan Catholic reiterating the importance of establishing Archdiocesan support for a Young Adult outreach, in essence a form of Evangelization. In the letter Tom also pointed out that there needs to be more commitment among the different vicariates and parishes. He thought that each Young Adult group needs a committed leader and that maybe the original concept of grouping all 18 to 35 year olds should be rethought. He stated that at this point it would be interesting to hear from our Vicariate about their plans for our Young Adult community. Tom and Meghan did discuss a new initiative put on by a nationwide group called the Young Catholic Professionals. With Archdiocesan approval they have recently initiated a chapter in the Metropolitan Detroit area. In the last three months they have held monthly meetings at churches in the Detroit area presenting speakers talking about their experiences and the moral/ethical issues facing a Catholic person in

the business world. At these meetings time is also set aside for socializing and professional networking.

3. Peggy then followed with an update from Religious Education. She stated that the Gift Program went from 3 groups attending monthly meetings to two groups, one on Sunday at 1:30PM and another on Friday at 6:30PM. The total numbers though remain the same. Peggy stated that as of mid September there is only one candidate who started in the RCIA Program which is definitely a lower number from past years, but this was not because of a lack of advertising and interest on the part of the Religious Ed Office. Sam Corrion spoke about being the SMYG Representative to the Education Commission. The group stated that we will support a Youth Mass, Agape Outreach, and try to help SMYG fundraise for scholarships for SMYG's Retreat and SAW activities since the SAW cost for one student runs around \$125.00 to \$150.00. There was a discussion about how SMYG might go about raising those additional funds.
4. Meghan briefly spoke about her contacts this summer with Samantha about Social Media issues. She stated that while there are avenues within the Parish to inform parishioners about activities, she feels that Social Media should be able to add an "entertainment" aspect to what is going on in the Parish. That being said, Meghan said getting pictures to add to our Media is not easy. There is the belief, she added, that there should be one person charged to organize and disseminate Social Media, and that should be a paid position. In the meantime, the Group mentioned the need to talk to the Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Larson to share any Social Media which comes across her desk. The feeling was that there should be in the future a paid Social Media Manager. Peggy closed the meeting by stating that the movement of the Religious Education Office from the Main Office to the former Volunteer Office has yet to take place. She hopes that happens before the Holiday. Because of absences there were no Evangelization, Holy Family, or Pre School Reports.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Wietchy