

St. Mary's Education Commission Minutes, 11-18-2017

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

Preface: There was no formal mention made at our Meeting, but during this one meeting the Education Commission lost AND gained a new Member. Meghan Schuler left, but we welcome Meghan Schuler Todd. As our church paper stated, Meghan and her husband Eric Todd were recently married with Fr. Stan officiating. Congratulations to Meghan and Eric.

1. Before the discussion of the November Synod Reflection in the chapel, Chairperson Samantha noted that the Education Commission will be doing the January Synod Reflection based on Archbishop Vigneron's "Unleash the Gospel" notes. Samantha stated that our December meeting will focus on preparing for that Presentation. That was followed by a discussion of some points brought out by the Worship Commission's discussion of the "missionary nature of the church" and some of the issues that challenge our role of "evangelization." We discussed the "roots" of the crisis: Scientific Fundamentalism, Moralistic Therapeutic Deism, and Secular Messianism. We reflected on what good habits our parish had exhibited. Meghan mentioned that the parish was quick to change from the traditional catechism approach of teaching our youth and adapted GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) where adults, especially the parents of school age children, were brought into the process. Peggy mentioned that St. Mary's continues the process while many other parishes have gone back to the older more traditional approach of having Catechism classes. Peggy also wondered what will be the outcome of the "Unleash the Gospel" format, will there be a continued outreach to get all members involved? As far as bad habits which we need to work on, many mentioned the need for all church committees to work together and the need for "communication" with each other. They pointed out that there is a need for the Parish Council and the Pastoral Team Committee (composed of Fr. Stan and the paid Church Staff) to find different ways of communicating more effectively with each other. While many mentioned this is not an easy thing to do, but efforts need to be made to make that happen.
2. Under **Old Business**: Chairperson Samantha wanted to cover these previously discussed goals: **"to foster a better environment for youth"** and a **"Youth Mass."** However, with the Youth Representative Sam Corrion being absent, she tabled the discussion until December.
3. As far as **New Business**, Samantha wanted to plan a SMYG Graduation Brunch at the end of the year. She wanted to use this opportunity to connect any college bound

students with an on campus ministry point of contact so that the newly bound college student would feel connected with their religion. She wanted to get them a Contact List, initially to get them involved, and then do a follow up in their Sophomore and Junior years. Samantha needs to find out who runs the Graduation Program and contact them. Samantha then moved to **Updates:** Youth has already been discussed. Peggy said that the GIFT Program continues along with Sacramental Preparation. Holy Family Regional School Rep Cheryl Garneau had a series of updates: Fundraisers are close to getting to their Goals; a new Advancement Person is on board; pre-school enrollment into K-8 school is up; get HFRS students involved in the life of their local parish; goal: make Catholic education affordable for all.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Wietchy