

St. Mary's Education Commission Minutes, 2-17-2018

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

Meghan Todd, who was subbing for our Chairperson Samantha, opened the Meeting by introducing a visitor to our Education Commission in the person of Amanda Barbosa. Amanda is interested in seeing what the Education Commission is about and may stop by the next few meetings to get the full impact of what we do. Meghan then mentioned that the Parish Council gave each commission a tasking—all members of each Commission are to fill out a survey about the scope of volunteering of members from our Commission (how long and how many different work related activities have we done on the Commission.). The idea is to recognize our volunteers and develop a system to get others on board.

As far as **Old Business**, Sam Corrion has said that the date for the “Youth Mass” has been set as Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at the 5PM Mass. Sam said that most volunteers are in place. Meghan added that last year there were two different “youth related” masses, one the formal Youth Mass put on by SMYG, another connected with SMYG’s Saw Experience.

As far as **New Business**, Tom brought up the subject of Religious Vocation outreach which was recently mentioned at other recent Meetings. He felt that not as much is being done to highlight vocations for women religious. Suzie stated that really there is need for more effort for both groups. Fr. Stan, who had just stopped in, interjected that the issue of religious vocation exposure should be a community experience and effort: the Church, the Parish, and most importantly the family need to support and encourage religious vocations as a very real and important option for their children. On another topic Tom then mentioned that he had been doing some follow up on our much-talked about Young Adult Ministry. Since we found out that Terry Gonda from the Vicariate had taken over Agape and was using Facebook as the means of communication, he also suggested to her that her Group use the local parish papers to “spread the word.” Tom will put in a small article in the parish bulletin reminding that Agape is still having a Saturday evening Mass the second Saturday of the month in the chapel at 7:30PM. Tom also mentioned that he tried to forward a “Letter to the Editor” to the Michigan Catholic about the need for the Archdiocese to maybe do more to support young adult ministries within the vicariates. He wants to check with The Michigan Catholic and/or the Archdiocese Office why “letters” cannot be published in the Diocese whether on this or any other issue? If we are to “unleash the Gospel,” let the words of the members of the community be heard. Tom added that he senses that the Archdiocese offices may be understaffed for the work needed to be done?

With little time remaining Meghan asked for **Updates** from the Group. Suzie stated “Christ Life” program, part of Discover Christ program was doing well—five tables were filled, and there was a sense of family and connection with the Group. Sam reiterated about planning for the Youth Mass in April and the good job SMYG members have been doing mentoring the Middle School Program (MSP). Peggy added that the MSP was a particularly large group and will be a good feeder for SMYG next year. In giving the update on Holy Family Regional School (HFRS), Cheryl mentioned that the school had a big fundraiser at Cherry Hill Banquet Center with over three hundred attending. She thanked the Parish Knights of Columbus for donating funds to pay for a Table for the Fundraiser. Also, School registration for the New School year has begun. Meghan also shared a Social Media project she was thinking about involves the character Flat Stanley.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Wietchy