

St Mary's Education Commission Minutes , 3-17-2018

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

Old Business: Fr. Stan stopped by at the beginning of the Meeting. Tom took the opportunity to ask Fr. Stan about how to connect with the Archdiocesan Office. Tom had put together a letter with our group's feedback about the state of the Young Adult Ministry both in the vicariate and in the Archdiocese. Tom sent this letter to the Michigan Catholic as a " Letter to the Editor." The Michigan Catholic said they do not have the room in the paper so they do not publish any Letters to the Editor now in the paper. Tom tried to go online to see who at the Archdiocese was a point of contact for issues related to the Young Adult Ministry. Fr. Stan recommended contacting Erik Coules of the AOD Department of Parish Life & Services. Tom thanked him. Then with Fr. Stan still there, Meghan and Samantha explained how they plan to incorporate the children's literary figure, Flat Stanley, into a summer program encouraging parishioners to track their vacation travels with Flat Stanley and share them with the parish through social media. Meghan and Samantha commented that it was during the Anniversary Mass, the Graduation Mass, and during Lent that many people hit the St. Mary's social media to connect with what was going on at St. Mary's. It's hoped that the same thing will happen with Flat Stanley. Samantha then turned the discussion to the upcoming Graduation Mass. Samantha said that they were planning on having a Banner, some type of Refreshments (at least a Cake and maybe more), and a Gift Basket, which would have a rosary, and some type of books for Young Adults. Some titles might include: Keeping Engaged in Your Faith, Prayer Journal, Staying Catholic in College, or Michael Kelly's 1001 Reasons to stay Catholic. Samantha is planning on at least 50 baskets. Meghan will try to include material from the new Archdiocese sponsored YCP (Young Catholic Professionals).

Talking then turned to the Youth Mass which will be taking place on Saturday, April 14th at St. Mary's at the 5PM Mass. Samantha says she wants this Young Adult Mass done right. First, she wants to contact Sam Corrion again, and get his input. Samantha sees most spots (for readers, ushers, and servers) filled up, but there is a need for singers and someone to write and give the Prayers of the Faithful. She believes there has to be training and rehearsals to make the teens feel confident. Samantha also stated there has to be Advertising. Also, someone needs to contact Chris Kozlowski of SMYG to make his members aware of the need for practice. Beth Belesky of the Worship Commission will work with the Eucharistic Ministers. It was not clear to me as to who will help the group write and give the Prayers of the Faithful.

New Business: Samantha then moved to discuss the need to recruit New Members. When asked about Amanda Barbosa who recently visited a meeting of our Education Commission, Samantha explained that while she will not be joining the Education Commission, she will be active in some other area of the Council. Samantha said there is a need to add new faces so there are enough people to fill in different duties on the Education Commission. While Samantha will be advertising through Media for new members, the rest of the Commission needs to try to talk to friends to see if there might be some interest in the Education

Commission. In a discussion of how Parish Councils had changed , Peggy mentioned that initially some Parish Councils did not have many commissions. That model had fewer commissions, but those commissions had a bigger part in actually running the Parish. Ours has more commissions, but has paid staff to execute some of the parish's goals. Samantha said she will write up the Duties of the Education Commission. She also explained that by the rules next year will be her last as Chairperson of our Education Commission, but she will not be able to be a representative from the Education Commission to the Parish Council. Thus, this shows the importance of new faces hopefully joining our Education Commission. Samantha then moved our **Updates:** Cheryl was absent so we will hear her report at our next meeting. The same will be for Sam Corrion for the Youth Ministry. As far as Religious Education, Peggy stated that Gift is closing its unit for this year and will be looking for a new introductory and closing unit for next year. Peggy stated that like the Kensington Church down the road in Troy, St. Mary's needs to invite family and friends into our parish. Susie stated that the Evangelization program started a couple of months ago is still moving along quite well.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Wietchy