

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FAITH FORMATION COUNCIL MINUTES

February 15, 2018

Meeting began at 6:33 pm and ended at 8:24 pm.

Council Members in Attendance: Jason Collins, Dave Dickson, Steve Hedding, Molly Myers, Mary Wieser, Alison Zirbel

Also Present: Fr. Ray McHenry, Fr. Andrew Windshittl, Christen Cota, Deb Barry, Faye Akers, Rick Schraeger (Pastoral Council liaison)

Council Members Absent: Maureen Berger, Linda Gust

I. Call to Order by Jason Collins

II. Opening Prayer

III. Open Forum – None

IV. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve Agenda with correction to next meeting date – Dave Dickson, Second – Mary Wieser. Passed: Unanimous.

V. Approval of Prior Meetings' Minutes: Motion to approve January Minutes – Steve Hedding, Second – Dave Dickson. Passed: Unanimous.

VI. Pastoral Report given by Fr. Ray – Attendance was down at Christmas. He had a great South Africa trip and is making plans to build another EnviroLoo. He was in California for the National Organization for Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy. The Annual Diocesan Appeal was met and the Parish will receive \$16,000 back. Our goal for the coming year is up 4% from last year. He had lunch with Bishop Pates. The Bishop sent his canonical retirement letter, so the timing of making the retirement official is in the hands of the Holy Father. Expects for announcement of new Bishop by mid-summer. Christ Renewals has numbers of 13 and 15 for the upcoming weekends. Chris Aldinger has accepted the position of Parish Business Manager and will begin on April 3rd. A question was asked about the idea of Perpetual Adoration at St. Francis and Fr. Ray said it would be a big project because of safety, construction, logistics and volunteers. Perhaps additional Adoration time would be a more fitting place to start.

VII. Staff Reports

A. Director of Youth Faith Formation report given by Christen Cota

- a. Question about the decision to cancel a 3rd grade class one week due to lack of catechist. Answer: it was a last resort and they are open to suggestions/solutions. They often shift catechists around or even have staff members step in to teach. But that particular night had no extra staff, support

volunteers or catechists available and none of the parents were willing to volunteer. There is a need for a more extensive substitute list to pull from.

- b. Question about the safety protocols at St. Francis in light of the recent school shooting in Florida. Answer: there is a Safety Committee in place and a crisis management plan has been developed. The building is locked on YFF nights. There is an evacuation plan.
 - c. Question asked about decision to change sign up for Catechis of the Good Shepherd to a lottery system. Answer: to make it more equitable for all families and less stressful for the staff.
- B. Director of High School Faith Formation report given by Deb Barry
- a. Question about the Nun Run and why it's in St. Louis rather than a closer Diocese. Answer: because of past experience and contacts. The plan is to visit other orders and locations in the future.
- C. Director of Adult Faith Formation report given by Faye Akers
- a. Question about the books and Lenten materials. Faye mentioned that we cover 25-30% of that cost through the good will donations.
 - b. Question about the Divine Mercy Retreat and whether or not plans are moving forward. Answer: A date was given to Mary Purtle that would work for the Parish calendar. Fr. Ray is waiting to hear back from Mary as to whether or not that date will work.
 - c. Question about ALPHA in a Catholic context. Faye reported that the group that previewed the program was evenly split 50/50 on whether or not it was a good fit for St. Francis. When asked if anyone who thought it was a good idea would spearhead it, no one spoke up. The feedback and comments from all the ALPHA preview sessions are available. Faye will send those comments to the Council.
 - d. Question asked about how we can help with Parish Mission planning in the future. Faye would like for the Council to put together a planning procedure for missions going forward. The Council decided to develop a sub-committee to work on that. But we will wait to move forward until we have the results from the Parish Assessment back, so that we can also gauge the level of interest of Parish Missions.

VIII. New Business

- A. Christen asked what the Council's involvement will be with budgeting. She is currently working on her budget and submitting it to Tom, who will take it to the Finance Council. In the past, her budget was approved by the Board of Education. Fr. Ray said he agrees that the Faith Formation Council should be involved in reviewing budgets for the Faith Formation department.

IX. Old Business

A. Assessment Subcommittee Report: The survey has been well received and there are a good number of participants already. The next step is to have another “push” at a weekend in March where the entire Faith Formation Council will be available at Coffee and Donuts and the Fish Fry with iPads on hand and paper surveys to hand out encouraging all members to participate in the survey before the March 25th deadline. Council members will bring their personal tablets and iPads. In order for this to work, we need a way around the ‘one survey per device’ restriction. Alison will discuss with Sheila how we can work around that. All Council members were encouraged to reach out to friends and family on a personal level about taking the survey. The subcommittee will help input the paper results once we figure out a way around the device restriction. When the results are all in, we will have them sent to the entire Council so they can review on their own time. At our next meeting we will set a date for a working session to review results and develop a plan for moving forward.

X. Concluding Comments: none

XI. Closing Prayer

XII. UPCOMING DATES: Next Meeting – March 22, 2018 at 6:30 pm

Minutes submitted by Alison Zirbel