

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FAITH FORMATION COUNCIL MINUTES

December 20, 2018

Council Members in Attendance: Maureen Berger, Jason Collins, Steve Hedding, Linda Gust, Mary Wieser, Alison Zirbel

Also Present: Fr. Ray McHenry, Deb Barry, Faye Akers

Council Members Absent: David Dickson, Molly Myers

Others Absent: Christen Cota, Rick Schraeger

I. Call to Order at 6:35 by Jason Collins

II. Opening Prayer was the Parish Mission Prayer led by Jason Collins

III. Open Forum – N/A

IV. Approval of Agenda - Steve moved to approve, Maureen seconded, motion passed

V. Approval of Prior Meetings' Minutes – Mary moved to approve, Linda seconded, motion passed

A. Minutes are not up to date on the website. **Alison will send to Katie Evans, Communications Coordinator.**

VI. Pastoral Reports

- A. Pastoral Report – we will hit the ADA number, ready to go for Christmas, official word from Rome on the Bishop is be patient, we are within normal parameters for Bishop approval which is within a year. Bishop Pates' letter was sent in February.
- B. Pastoral Council Report – no report

VII. Staff Reports

- A. Faye for Christen, YFF/FFO: New budget process is very welcome by the staff, Chris is hoping to make it to a meeting to answer any questions we may have. Last week, the Lent 2019 Planning Meeting took place. The FFC has been invited to be a guiding hand in those decisions going forward. The Council declines taking that on entirely due to time constraints. It's probably best to keep the team of staff in place that has been making those decisions. In theory, our input will be factored in via two ways 1) the overarching vision that FFC will hand out can be factored into the decision-making process and 2) we would like to be looped in on future planning meetings in the future in case someone from the Council is able to attend. **The discussion about a Youth Faith Formation Advisory Team will be on the January agenda.**
- B. Deb, HSFF: working on Spring Break and Summer Mission trip. Will start a new offering the second Sundays of each month at 5:00 called Prayer, Praise & Pie. It will begin in January.
- C. Faye, AFF: Faye and Heather just had their quarterly meeting this week. The pulpit talks were successful and FORMED registrations increased to 822 and visits to the site more than doubled since last month. Mary said in the future, it would be good to know how many people Coffee and Donuts expects as helpers when we host.

VIII. New Business

- A. Subcommittee Reports –
 - a. Adult Faith Formation Advisory Team (Alison, Dave, Linda and Mary) The team had a quarterly meeting with Faye and Heather on December 3rd. The meeting went really well with a lot of ideas and input being exchanged. It was helpful to Heather and Faye for their Winter/Spring planning. A couple take-aways: there will be a parish wide book study for the Matthew Kelly book "The Biggest

Lie...”, an Apologetics series will be considered for the parish next fall, Mission planning continues, Alpha review continues.

- i. Alison reported on Parish Mission – Dan DeMatte has been approved by the Diocese and by Father Ray. Father and Alison met to take a look at the calendar. They narrowed it down to the following two options: October 6th-8th or October 13th-15th. Alison and anyone else who would like to represent the FFC will attend the next Pastoral Council meeting on January 3rd to discuss with them how Francis Fest fits in to the Mission planning for October of 2019 and going forward. After that meeting, we should be able to finalize a date and start digging into the planning.
 - ii. Vision – in September, John Gaffney from Diocese of Des Moines Department of Evangelization and Catechesis presented on the Faith Formation Council Principles and Diocesan Collaboration. He informed us our role is to plan and assess the faith formation ministry of the parish, decide on the direction we want to go as a Parish, communicate that vision to the Staff and other committees as appropriate. The FFC decided to look at the four pillars and choose an emphasis within one pillar each year.
 - iii. Mary reported on Alpha review – Mary and Alison met with several participants of the Alpha preview team to gather their feedback. There were differing views among the preview group. Mary and Alison have watched several of the videos, read through the materials, talked to other dioceses and parishes and had several meetings devoted to the Alpha program’s evaluation. They don’t find anything offensive to the Catholic faith. It’s important to note that the Catholic context of Alpha will come from the Catholics in each small group, not from the videos. Alpha is not a replacement for CRHP. But it’s not really a study group either. It’s versatile in regards to size and structure. It takes place over 11 weeks. Each session includes food, a video (or speaker) and small group discussion. There is also an Alpha Youth Series that they think deserves a look as well. Father Ray and the FFC said “let’s do it”. Next step, Mary and Alison will meet with those from the preview team who have a vision for the program at St. Francis and start looking at details with a potential roll-out scheduled for the Fall of 2019.
 - iv. Mary reported on a possible Apologetics Series – She has contacted Fr Ludwig. He is interested in speaking as a team effort with Bishop Charron. She will meet with Father Ludwig to discuss details.
- b. Retreats and Missions Committee (Steve and Molly)
 - i. Steve reported that he and Molly attended the CRHP Continuation Committee meeting in November. **They will schedule a meeting with two members of the Continuation Committee and Father to discuss further and preferably prior to CRHP Leadership Dinner in February.**
 - c. Fellowship and Service Committee (Jason and Maureen) reported that they will meet after the new year and **will report at next FFC meeting.**
- B. Clash of Creeds – Possible Parish Event late February. Father received a request to bring this show to St. Francis. The timing isn’t going to work and the decision was not to do it.
 - C. Man-Up West Power Lunch – using St. Francis facilities for a Man Up Event the second Friday of the month beginning in January. Just an example of events that might not be St. Francis sponsored, but take place on our campus.

- A. FFC Planning Calendar: Approval/Support of Budget by FFC – budget is due to Director of Operations on February 25th
- B. FFC Planning Calendar: Input for the Liturgical theme for Lent – this needs to be moved to the previous month on the planning calendar.

X. Concluding Comments

XI. Closing Prayer

XII. UPCOMING DATES: Next Meeting – January 17, 2019 – Father will miss this meeting, but will designate a representative.

XII. Adjournment at 8:05 pm

Minutes submitted by Alison Zirbel