**Education Committee Minutes 5-22-18**

**In Attendance:** Rose Young, Shauna Iannarino, Terri Peterson, Tricia Buckman, Joann Wozniak, and Juliana Weber

**Excused:** Maureen Gill, Shauna Iannarino

* Opening prayer
* Tricia asked if we knew of anyone teaching the Youth Group age kids who may be interested in joining the committee to replace Megan Smith’s spot. Karen Murphy was suggested by Juliana. Karen will be teaching non-Confirmation high school Rel. Ed. on Sundays next session. Tricia will follow up and see if there is an interest.
* Juliana and Terri approved the minutes from the last meeting.
* Juliana
  + Catechist survey
    - 19 out of approximately 80 catechists responded to the survey.
    - Almost 90% said they always or usually cover the Bible stories. Less than half found the key Bible story extremely or very valuable. 36% found it somewhat valuable. The committee discussed that some catechists may have gotten the Gospel reading from Pflaum confused with the additional Bible stories which were added 2 years ago. Rose said at first, she thought it was referring to the Pfluam. Terri brought up different ways to teach the Bible stories would be helpful to share with other catechists. She said it would be worth it to check in with the catechist who are successful and see what they are doing and share that. She brought up different media resources.
    - 25% of catechists in the lower grades only covered a little or none of the Benzinger Family Life book. The committee discussed that this is a requirement by the diocese. This will be discussed in the Sept. 16th training/orientation for catechist for the 2018-2019 Rel. Ed. year.
    - Catechists say on the whole that Pflaum is easy to use, helpful, and could have better content at least some weeks. It could contain more doctrinal content.
    - Juliana did not ask about the “We Believe” catechism book we use. It’s a necessary component in making sure that we teach the Catechism. Judging by the use of Benzinger, Juliana and Joann suggested a pacing guide. They will produce something over the summer. The committee thought it was a good idea. This also needs to be addressed at the Sept. 16th training/orientation meeting.
    - 60% of the 19 catechists surveyed probably or definitely would be interested in catechist formation. Juliana indicates that the diocese does not have anyone who can train for parishes that will allow those hours to count towards certification. She is at a loss as to what to do for extra training. The committee agreed that it would be worth it to put together something for the catechists a few times a year that isn’t toward a certification. At least we would be doing something. It was suggested that the January – February time frame would be good. Maybe by the summer next year the diocese will have figured out how to either certify Juliana as a teacher or they will have resources available for parishes. It was also suggested that we gather a few times a year to watch FORMED videos just as an opportunity to get together as a group.
    - Overwhelmingly, catechists would find teaching evaluations to be helpful. Juliana said she is going to schedule time to sit in each class next year to observe. Terri said she would see this as a negative while Tricia said she would love to be evaluated. Rose said she thinks that the kids act differently when they know the teacher is being evaluated. It isn’t a true representation of how the class runs when a person of authority is in the room. The committee came up with ways to make it less intimidating to the teacher and more casual for the students. Suggestions included Juliana reading the Gospel story or acting as an aide.
    - 2 catechists missed that we had ministry of the month.
    - Catechist closing statements were wide-ranging and included suggestions of middle-school retreats or lock-ins, and helping catechists pace the class materials so they cover it all. Some real conundrums were comments about things we can’t change like the Benzinger.
  + Catechist training/orientation
    - Juliana spoke to Peggy Dumler and she volunteered to help with the classroom management piece of the training. A date was set for Sunday, September 16th. The goal would be for catechists to attend the noon mass together and then the remainder of the day would be for training etc.
    - Tricia will send a couple Fr. Mike Schmitz video links to the committee that would be great for catechists.
    - The question was raised, what are other parishes doing?
    - The committee identified areas that need to be discussed with all catechists.
      * Teaching of the *Family Life* unit is a requirement.
      * Teaching the *We Believe* is a requirement.
      * We need to clarify the Bible stories vs the Gospel readings which are a requirement.
      * Ask catechists at this gathering what they would like to see as far personal training for them.
      * A suggestion was made to have an opportunity a couple times a year for Joann and Juliana to gather with the catechist for feedback. Tuesday night catechists gather after students leave to have discussions. Sunday can’t do before or after class because it interferes with masses. Maybe if the entire Rel. Ed. student body gathered together at times like Christmas or Easter to watch a video, Juliana and Joann could meet with the catechists at this time and the aides would manage the event for 15-30 minutes.
      * Catechists should share resources they use such as great books or videos.
      * End of the Year celebration feedback.
  + Suggestion box results
    - Give Joann and Ted a raise.
    - 5 people think Rel. Ed should be conducted during mass times.
    - Protestant Reformation.
    - 2 people wrote all is going great.
    - Logistics during pick up time – too many kids running around unattended.
    - Have a special section in the bulletin for updates.
    - Kids should be praying in class.
    - More field trips during class like visiting the historic church, the sacristy, the church or the rectory.
    - A comment was made that while many of the suggestions will not evoke change, it’s a god place for parents to have a voice.
  + Ministry of the month results
    - We got two catechists and one aide.
      * We need more than this. Juliana will ask current catechists for referrals. Last year we had an Open House where we got several new catechists.
* Misc.
  + Last day of class feedback
    - Tuesday’s went long. Time frame on Sunday was better.
    - Speaking to a wide range of ages is difficult.
    - It was hectic. Maybe do it at the beginning of class rather than at the end.
    - Parishioners were trying to come in and pray and complained about not getting to sit in “their seat.”
    - There are pros and cons to the certificates. It was suggested we could just use the certificates in the back of the workbooks. Some liked using the certificates so maybe if catechists want to use them they can. This is something to talk about at the September meeting.
  + Father Mike said there will not be confessions by any priest next year while classes are being held. It was stated that this event brought adults to confession that hadn’t been in a long time as well as reinforced the importance of the sacrament and the seeds of grace received from going. It was suggested that maybe we have a couple “Family Reconciliation” nights during the year. The committee agreed this would be a great idea. Julian will see if she can do a bulletin insert about reconciliation. Terri suggested talking to Megan Smith because she loves this sacrament and is passionate about it.
  + Juliana handed out the Catechist Handbook and would like feedback on it before the next meeting. Julian will need to get copies to Maureen and Shauna.
  + Terri sent a flyer she found at another parish regarding the outlook on children at mass. It was very well written. Joann forwarded it to the Evangelization Comm. The committee talked about putting them as flyers/cards in the pews.
  + Megan had started a list of parent resources. Tricia will follow up with her on this.
  + Movies shown in class, have to be approved not only for content but for licensing.
  + No one has seen any of the movies listed on the agenda.
* Next meeting will be June 12th from 5:00-6:30. The topics will be
  + Goals for 2018-2019 (Tricia will look for original list of ideas and forward to committee for next meeting.
  + Topics for orientation/training on Sept. 16th.
* Closing prayer