

ST. MARY'S AND ST. JOHN'S FAITH FORMATION REPORT

November 2010

Several of our Catechists attended an **"In-service and Light Supper"** experience at St. Bernard's at the end of October. This in-service focused on "teaching methods" for catechesis in grades 1-12 and was sponsored and presented by ProClaym, our Religious Education and Youth Ministry professional organization.

Our **St. Mary's/St. John's Adult Faith Formation Committee** met at the end of October. We discussed and formulated a "rolling 3-Year Plan" for Adult Catechesis for our parishes. Please see the enclosed agendas and minutes from this year. We would like permission from the Pastoral Council to make a 15-minute presentation for the January, 2011 Pastoral Council Meeting.

Our October winner of our **"Faithful Student and Family Award"** was Kayla O'Connell.

Sally and I attended the **Green Bay Diocesan Convocation** at the KI Center in Green Bay at the beginning of November. The keynote speaker was Sister Joyce Rupp – a Catholic Sister, who talked about compassion from the viewpoint of her two years training at a Buddhist training center. I was very disturbed that the Diocese allowed this presentation, because the focus was not about "Catholic" spirituality. While the topic "compassion" is an excellent one, it had little to do with what the advertised focus for the Convocation, which was supposed to be, "Spirituality The Faith Prayed". The other sessions that Sally and I attended were good and worthwhile. We did convey our opinions of the Convocation to those in charge of the event.

Confirmation Candidates celebrated their Rite Enrollment and began **Confirmation Preparation Classes** at the beginning of November. About three quarters of the Sponsors attended the **"Sponsor Preparation Session"**. I will hold a "Make-up Sponsor Preparation Session" for those who did not/were not able to attend.

November 17, is our 2nd **"Heart-to-Heart Parent Night"**, @ 6:05 PM in St. John's cafeteria. Our program is entitled **"Parenting Teens with Love and Logic"** and will be presented by Don Derozier, Ph.D., SFO. Dr. Derozier is retired from clinical psychology after 37 years service in the Fox Valley. He is a father and grandfather, an adult catechist, an amateur Catholic apologist and a challenging presenter who punctuates his message with humor and common sense. Dr. Derozier will discuss practical strategies for loving parent-teen relationships with an emphasis on 'the teenage Jesus'. We strongly encourage all adults and parents to attend this worthwhile program, including **our Pastoral Council members and ask everyone to bring along two or three guests.**

Our **9th and 10th Graders** will be going on a **bus trip** on November 17, to listen to nationally known **Chastity speaker, Jason Evert**, at St. Bernadette's in Appleton. No FF class on November 24 for **Thanksgiving Break**. Our St. Mary GS and St. Mary and St. John Faith Formation **2nd Graders, will receive the wonderful Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday, December 9.**

Our Next Adult Faith Formation presentation will be on Thursday, December 9 at 8:30, after morning Mass, in the Faith Formation Center. The title of the presentation is "O Come All Ye Faithful", and is being offered by Don Derozier, Ph.D., SFO. "This short program will explore the biblical and historical roots of our Antiphons to prepare ourselves for the birth of the Lord. We will focus on the final eight days of Advent (the Octave) ending at the Christmas vigil. Participants should bring their bibles and hymnals if they have them". A light breakfast will be offered to participants. This presentation is free and we strongly encourage our Pastoral Council members to attend if at all possible.

Our last FF class before Christmas break is our **"Family Christmas Night"**, on December 15.

Respectfully,

Debbie Spielbauer

Coordinator for St. Mary's/St. John's Faith Formation

Copies of the Adult Faith Formation Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website under Faith Formation

SM/SJ Adult Faith Formation (AFF) Team Meeting Minutes

Tuesday June 29, 2010 (at St John)

Attendance: Debbie Spielbauer, Sister Mary Arnoldussen, Gladys Hanson, Pam Cleveland, Jennifer Lee, Deacon Rick and Judy Dvorak

Session 2 Continued: Means of Providing AFF – Reviewed and shared Chart 5 selections.

(Attachment of Chart 5 with totals of each specific category included with minutes).

Approaches other than programs: radio, our actions, homilies, TV, pamphlets, videos/DVDs, podcasts, faith-filled groups/relationships, bulletins, directory of programs/activities.

AFF could support independent learners via radio, list Catholic websites, parish libraries.

Session 3 and 4:

- Pivotal role/importance of Parish – Parish is curriculum. Parish to have goals, a vision, create steps on “how to”, offer with commitment and substance, a human element.
- Key Parish Roles of leadership/service - Catholics Come Home program identified some parish leaders. Lead by example; pray to Holy Spirit to guide/call them; we are formative to others; study programs; pamphlets; committed/firm/faithful parishioners need opportunities to come forward and to be invited; catechist; RCIA; homilies; daily rosaries; our volunteers.
- Define Next Steps – Current leaders to call forth others they believe can lead/serve; list volunteer opportunities; upload on parish website the bulletin inserts and Faith Formation activities.

Appendix I – “Ten Questions to Help Assess and Shape a Parish Faith Community”.

(Question Answer)

1. *How are people encouraged to examine assumptions about life and its meaning?* Examine what Church documents say; homilies; catechism; media can sway both in positive/negative ways.
2. *How do they acquire perspective and skills....?* Educate with the Truth.
3. *How is the Christian message lived, communicated, explored?* Live by example the Christian life; others will be drawn to you; be a powerful witness.
4. *How do people experience Christian community in family, parish, ecumenical?* Living witness as a married couple-praying together; living as disciples of Jesus; we have more similarities than differences; respecting other faiths; Koinonia is ecumenical; Life Fest
5. *How do they actively participate in ... Liturgical-Mass, sacraments, Holy Hour, devotions; Small group-rosary; Family-Rosary, meal prayers in public, Sign of the Cross/Witness. Personal-Liturgy of the Hours, set a time each day, Scripture/spiritual readings, rosary/novenas.*
6. *How are they involved in assessing local needs and discerning pastoral priorities?* Parish committee reports; meetings; Neenah/Menasha community group
7. *How is Christian stewardship in parish and society called forth and welcomed?* Stewardship forms, invite personally, flyers to invite, witness talks.
8. *How do they personally serve the “least ones”?* Monthly food collections, Thanksgiving dinner to homebound, care ministries, monetary support; unborn baby care.
9. *How are they involved in shaping public policy and making society more just?* Life Committee, Social Concerns Committee, public demonstrations.
10. *How are people learning in the faith already through the ordinary experience of parish life and mission?* Applying the homily, Faith Formation, Scripture, and RCIA to their life.

Next meeting is August 24 in conference room FF offices for final processing and final planning. Meeting to include Key Parish Roles on pages 30, 31, 32, 33 through “Identifying the Next Steps”.

SM/SJ Adult Faith Formation (AFF) Team Meeting Minutes Tuesday August 3, 2010 (at St John)

Attendance: Debbie Spielbauer, Sr Mary Arnoldussen, Gladys Hanson, Pam Cleveland, Jennifer Lee, Judy Dvorak

Means of Providing AFF: Our compiled selections (Chart 5) to be used as resource to plan.

KEY PARISH ROLES OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Objective One (pastor and pastoral leaders demonstrate commitment to growth in Christian faith)

Indicator 3 (parish places AFF at center of mission/goals; promotes):

- Little or no effort from parish leadership. We need to have the councils and committees recognize our intentional goals for AFF in parish life. We need to “sell” AFF to councils and committees. John Kiefer is our “go to person” for SM/SJ. AFF can be worked into parish life through newsletter, mailings, meetings, etc. AFF not in all our ministries yet.
- Recommendations: Should council members also be certified in their faith as Catechists, etc? Not be so disenfranchised between committees, councils, and staff. Promote AFF to parish councils, heads of committees. Ask them “how can we give AFF to your ministry?” Have weekly bulletin focus topic. Coordinate Sunday homily with bulletin. More volume of promotional materials. Our AFF committee is to pray, fast, and have adoration time to have council members, committees, etc to open their minds and hearts to be receptive to AFF.

Indicator 4 (parish gives AFF priority with financial resources, learning space, scheduling):

- Little or no effort from parish.
- Have at least a halftime AFF coordinator. Will need to educate of councils, etc to make progress. Study model parishes and what is working. Find and help parishioners to discover strengths.

Objective Two (parish will designate AFF leader, authorized by pastor, to implement, be responsible for AFF)

Indicator 1 (parish designates staff person or lay parishioner to lead AFF):

- Little parish effort. AFF is a financial investment and more for the parish, now and for the future.
- Recommendations: Need someone hired to serve AFF and one for children for SM & SJ. Making people aware is our challenge. Need core team to promote and grow AFF vision.

Indicator 2 (leader of AFF advocates for priority of AFF in parish)

- Current AFF coordinator does not have time to spend on AFF. Recommend hire someone.

Objective Three (parish will have core team committed to AFF, its vision, implementation, etc)

Indicators:

1. *Parish has a functioning AFF team that is formally recognized in the parish leadership structure.*
Not recognized yet or known by parishioners. Need to be formally recognized by pastor and councils.
2. *Parish team, working with pastor and staff, formulates a vision of AFF for parish.*
Pastor and staff to coordinate with core team to present plans/minutes.
3. *Team identifies elements of parish life that foster AFF growth, assesses impact, if necessary, and offers recommendations to enhance effectiveness.*
Our compiled list from Chart 5 listed above – is vision survey results of our group.
4. *Team provides diverse range of quality programming for parish AFF.*
That is a goal and we have been offering such. We hope to be more intentional in future.
5. *Team receives both initial and ongoing formation to prepare it to accomplish its mission effectively.*
Diocese to continue educational opportunities and provide tools/materials.

Pros and cons of core team approach.

Pros – approach SM/SJ together; share resources; share own experiences, ministries, backgrounds; have a Neenah/Menasha AFF team in place.

Cons – time factor; no parish support; no one aware of AFF committee and its efforts

Could you imagine developing an approach in parish? Yes – approach is developing in parish.

If already have a “core team”, how does it measure up when compared to indicators? Awesome/passionate team.

Aside from “core team”, what other structures /models could assure implementation of AFF? Have pastor and parish councils be on board. Study other parish models (ex: St. Pius, St. Mary, Greenville, St. Raphael, Oshkosh). These parishes are younger and have flexible programs, masses.

Objective Four (Parish will have access to trained catechists to serve diverse AFF efforts)

OHWB Indicator 150 (pg 51) Notion of Catechist: Description should be for all catechists and all Catholics.

Parish availability of well-prepared catechist for AFF? Not enough now but will have in 4 yrs. Lumen Christi to fund

Catechist education, and Advancing the Mission funds also.

Identifying the Next Steps

1. *What issues do we need to address to ensure an intentional/organized AFF effort?*

Councils, etc, including parishioners don't recognize importance of AFF. Lack of acceptance. Uninformed parish.

2. *What are the first steps in addressing these issues?*

Timeline

First step is to pray. Pray to change the model of how we do business such as money first. Pray as to how best to present our info. Involve parish councils, committee heads; pastor. Have a general mention of our AFF theme at Mass. Need adequate funds to hire AFF leader. Have 3-5 yr plan.

Present how (proof) parishes if invested in AFF their tithe donations increase.

Make mini-plan of what we want to do this year. Such as parent night during Faith Formation and our Sneak Peak at Scriptures

Give presentation and arguments to councils and committees by January 2011.

Have % chart to show what other parishes allocate to AFF.

Have all steps ready before presentation to councils, etc.

Next meeting is August 24 – Specific Objectives and Strategies, pg 34.

Attendance: Debbie Spielbauer, Sister Mary Arnoldussen, Jennifer Lee, Judy Dvorak, Cindy Spielbauer, Pam Cleveland

Guest Speaker: Julianne Donlon-Stanz, Diocesan Director of Adult Faith Formation

Julianne shared an AFF slide presentation with much excitement, enthusiasm, and her expertise, giving us the needed guidance and support to facilitate our 3-5 year plan/vision. She also provided various handouts: questionnaires, surveys, guidelines.

Specific Strategy – A Presentation to SM/SJ Parish Councils

Julianne and Debbie will coordinate a presentation to be given to SM/SJ parish councils, with Julianne as main presenter, to address why AFF should be a top priority for SM/SJ. Other AFF committee members may also be present. Since money is usually the issue, we would like presentation to stress the aspect of having to spend money towards AFF to receive money/growth. Similar to businesses knowing they have to spend money to make money and/or to grow. Julianne will share her vast knowledge, complete with statistics, about AFF with the councils. There are a number of area parishes where she can share their success stories.

Julianne has over 20 possible presentations to help the committee develop this presentation. Committee members will be emailed some information to help select the topics/themes that will prayerfully, have the biggest impact and secure full support for the AFF committee's endeavors and vision for SM/SJ.

Next meeting planned for late October. Date/Time to follow. Suggest ideas for 3-5 year plan for AFF.

**St. Mary and St. John Parishes Adult Faith Formation Committee Meeting Agenda
October 26, 6:30 PM**

1. **Meeting in the FF Office:**
2. **Opening Prayer:**
3. Taking a look the **Handout “Reclaiming the Adult Church”** by Pam Costner, packet
4. We will take a look at: **“Adult Faith Formation Strategic Plan Catholic Diocese of Green Bay 2009”** – some of the below ideas/thoughts are from this document
5. **Establish a rolling 3 year plan of goals** - Every year after this, the plan can be evaluated by the AFF Committee and then the AFF Committee can add an additional year of planning – so there is always a 3-year AFF plan in motion
6. **Establish planning timeframe and schedule for AFF opportunities:**
7. **If possible, identify/establish a mission statement.** Our FF Mission Statement is:

Mission Statement Of St. Mary/St. John Faith Formation Program

“We, the Faith Formation team of St. Mary and St. John Parish Communities, unite in partnership with parents as they guide their children in the process of becoming faith-filled, loving Catholic Christians. Assisted by the Spirit of Jesus, we provide information about the Catholic faith, formation in the Gospel way of life, and prayer experiences that invite spiritual transformation. We believe that the presence of Jesus makes the ministry of Faith Formation effective, so that young people may respond to the message through growth in faith, worship and Christian service.”

8. **Develop a vision statement –**

The Diocesan AFF Vision Statement is:

“The vision of adult faith formation for the Diocese of Green Bay is one that challenges our parishes to become more dynamic communities that support lifelong learning and growth in discipleship by placing adult faith formation at the center of parish life. Our vision is of a diocese made up of parishes where all of our adult members are immersed in lifelong catechesis and the mission of building up the Kingdom of God.”

The goal of adult faith formation is that, “We seek to form adults who actively cultivate a lively baptismal and eucharistic spirituality with a powerful sense of mission and apostolate. Nourished by word, sacrament and communal life, they will witness and share the Gospel in their homes, places of work and centers of culture” (Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us #17)

9. **How do we enhance strengths and opportunities for AFF? How can we?**

10. **Diocesan Foundations** (from “Adult Faith Formation Strategic Plan Catholic Diocese of Green Bay 2009”)

- ❖ To nurture the faith of our adults which people consciously grow in the life of Christ through experience, reflection, prayer (include developing and marketing program to inactive or unchurched Catholics)
- ❖ To provide the necessary materials and resources to enable parishes to implement intentional, diverse and consistent adult faith formation programming
- ❖ To develop and implement programs which integrate the teachings, traditions and values of the Catholic Church
- ❖ To promote and provide for adults in family formation programs

11. **Topic Ideas:** Sacraments, Morality, Prayer, Creed, Evangelization, The Trinity, RCIA, The Mass, Scripture, Social Justice, Christian Stewardship, Knowledge of the Faith, Liturgical Life, Moral Formation, Communal Life, Missionary Spirit, etc.

12. **Means of Delivery:** in person class, on-line class, materials at home for self-study, brochure, pamphlet, book, magazine, DVD video, parish retreat, workshops, Catholic book study, guest speakers, Catholic Parent Night Presentations – your ideas?

13. Who is Responsible for implementation? Volunteers?

14. Steps for Implementation?

15. Necessary Financial Resources?

16. Necessary Resources/Materials?

17. Timeline for Implementation?

18. **Your ideas for our Focus for:**

AFF Plans for the current year:

- a. Don Deroizier, PhD, SFO, on? (He’s still discerning what the Lord would like him to present...)
- b. Jeff and Cindy Spielbauer – Facilitating “Theology of the Body” DVD presentations in January or February?
- c. Julie Schmitz – on ? (I can’t remember... ☹)
- d.

Year 1:

Year 2:

Year 3:

19. Hopper – Cracker Barrel

20. Closing Prayer

Attendance: Debbie Spielbauer, Jennifer Lee, Judy Dvorak, Pam Cleveland, Sally Michalkiewicz

Handouts received: 1) "Reclaiming the Adult Church" by Pam Costner.
2) A business marketing strategy to model toward our parishioners.
3) Sample Roles/Responsibilities of Parish AFF Team.

Parish Council Presentation: This may fall away as Julianne Donlon-Stanz, who was to help with the presentation, will most likely be travelling back to Ireland for an extended time. Committee will work on presentation. Even though both parishes are struggling financially, we believe we still need to present AFF significance to councils. AFF is key and central to everyone in parish. Debbie, Sally, Jen to present with models from Julianne. Mid-Nov to practice the presentation.

3 Year Plan: Come up with plan by January.

First year (2010-2011) opportunities are: (Jen to create flyer of opportunities)

Don Deroizier, PhD, SFO – one night Advent presentation

Women Celebrate retreat weekend (Elkhart Lake) – market to parishioners – highly recommended

Theology of the Body – Jeff/Cindy Spielbauer to present – Begin week of Valentine – 9 wks.

Esto Vir for men in March?

Parent Night – Teen and parent relationship from Catholic perspective.

Fr. Mann Quinn? – Topics, dates sent to him. Maybe present "Why Be Catholic".

Bishop David Ricken? – Hoping for positive/confirming response.

Julie Schmitz - ??

Parent
Night

2nd Year: Corapi's Catechism series – 36 wks (2nd & 3rd yrs) or just USCCA 24 wk series?

Will pick a topic for a year or a quarter and then how to deliver it.

Marketing strategies: Personal invitations from committee members; through the Diocese; bulletin and pulpit; sneak previews (skit before Mass)

Mission Statement: Develop for parishes. Maybe the vision statement from Diocese can be revised.

Next meeting: To be announced. We will revisit how do we enhance strengths/opportunities.