

Catholic Area Faith Community of Jesus Our Living Water

Area WORD Committee Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

7:00 pm – Church of St. Thomas More

Joint Agenda

Opening Prayer – Bishop Ken Untener’s Reflection

Pastor’s Report

- Review: Lent 2015 – we had two consultative meetings one at St. Patrick’s and one at St. Thomas More. It was a night to gather and reflect on the questions Bishop LeVoir asked us to reflect on. Our Lady of the Lakes and St. Mary will also gather and reflect on these questions.
- On March 26 we hosted the Chrism Mass at St. Mary. Holy Week followed with the Area Easter Vigil Mass and all the baptisms and new members who were received into the Church. Thank you to everyone who helped with these events.
- Coming in April will be First Holy Communion at St. Patrick and St. Mary on April 25 & 26 and at Our Lady of the Lakes on 5/3. There will also be Baccalaureates, and graduations.
- Tonight put Budget on your agenda – we need input and recommendations for the next year tonight. These will be presented to the Area Stewardship Committee on 4/30. Word & Worship Committee members, discuss whether we need to look at doing another Mission?

Area Word Members Present: Pat Laib, Diane Cronen, Debbie Becker, Aurora McCleary, Anisabel Palma, Barb Garding and Diane Pyka.

Absent: Randy Suter

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of our last meeting, January 6, 2015 were read and approved.

Approval of agenda:

Budget input and recommendations were added to the agenda.

Discussion/Action Items

Confirmation Evaluation – Confirmation was held Sunday, February 10 at the 10:00 am Mass. Father Steve wanted input on comments given about the feeling of being “rushed” after Confirmation was over/reception. Possible reasons for this would be group pictures taken after Mass and another Mass scheduled at Noon.

Some options discussed were: moving the Confirmation Sunday date (dependent on the Bishop’s schedule); moving Confirmation to a Wednesday; and possibly not having group pictures taken. A committee member mentioned the importance to her as a parent to have a group picture of her children’s confirmation.

Faith Formation Program Report for Grades 7, 8 & 9 from Diane Pyka

Diane shared about the following that is her responsibility:

- Grades 7 & 8 – This year we used the Life Teen Middle School Program called “The EDGE” which has on-line curriculum options when you subscribe.
- The EDGE Semesters we used were: Sacraments and Social Justice/Corporal Works of Mercy. Other sessions included Issue Nights; Theology of the body (3 sessions); Mass Ministries where students learned about the ministries from those who minister in our parishes, and they were involved in scheduled Masses; Service related activities; and a NET Retreat (4 hr.)
- Grade 9 Curriculum was T3 The Teen Timeline from Ascension Press supplemented with: Theology of the Body (3); Sexuality-Romance Without Regret (2); and Service nights.
- Parent involvement – Grade 7/8 & Grade 9 each had two parent participation nights scheduled in the Curriculum Calendar.
- Diane has homeschool families in the grades she is responsible for. Grades 7/8 are using Loyola Press curriculum and Grade 9 is using Called to be Catholic.
- Sacramental preparation classes were scheduled Wednesdays from 5:30-6:45pm for one 7th grader and two 9th graders. Teaching was done by Aurora McCleary and support by Anisabel Palma. Materials used were Called to be Catholic (a catch up for students who have had faith formation gaps) and the Journey of Faith for Teens curriculum.

Faith Formation Registration Fee - Mary Nordstrom addressed the question from a committee member on the Faith Formation Directors request for an increase in

Registration Fees from \$25 to \$30 per student with a family max which was \$50 to \$100. Because of our cancellation of our February and March meetings, a response to this petition was asked of committee members via email – a deadline for the determination of fees was needed by March 26. The request was approved by the majority of committee members.

Mary shared that work is being done to provide one registration form per family that could be filled out on-line and also the availability of parents being able to use a credit card for the registration fee at the registration dates set for the end of April.

Evaluations – committee members that are also catechists recommended that evaluations be given out/emailed as soon as possible to give catechists time to reflect and get feedback to us.

Budget for 2015-2016

Father Steve asked for a discussion for a general sense of what we would like to see happen in the coming year. Recommendations were: Father Steve celebrate another “Teaching Mass”; sponsoring a Retreat Day or a Parish Mission was discussed with the challenges and benefits of each. If a team or Mission Priest was not available for this year, we discussed the possibility to consider having others in our faith community be asked to do a night.

Membership Openings from StP (1) and StTM (2).

Future Agenda Items:

End of Year Evaluations

Mission or Retreat for 2015-2016

Membership Openings from StP and StTM

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting will be Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at the Church of St. Patrick, Kandiyohi

Submitted by Diane Pyka