

Education MPA

Meeting Minutes for August 26, 2009

Committee Members: Karen Banta, Kay Dougherty, Sally German, Jennifer Myers, Rosemary Peddicord

Non-Committee Attendees: Deacon Ray Moreau

The meeting began at 7:40 with an opening prayer led by Deacon Ray.

The minutes for the July 22nd meeting were reviewed and approved by the committee.

Karen Banta stated that she is working on a complete list of all the committee members, including their addresses and contact information. When it is complete, she will distribute it to all the members.

A discussion ensued about contacting additional parishioners to join the committee, especially younger members. Sally German volunteered to ask some young men who are parishioners and active in our parish, to see if they would join our committee.

A discussion then ensued regarding the need to be STAND certified to work at our upcoming Family Funfest. Apparently, some individuals may have been put off about volunteering because they are not STAND certified. Deacon Ray said he would ask for clarification about the need for STAND certification at the Family Funfest and clear up any misunderstanding at the next meeting.

Karen then asked Rosemary Peddicord if she knew of any younger parishioners to joining our committee. Rosemary said she would think about it, but that many of the younger parishioners she knows are also busy with young children.

A discussion then ensued regarding an incident at 8:00 Mass regarding a family with young children. Both Karen Banta and Deacon Ray mentioned that they are aware of the incident, and it has been brought to the attention of the proper individual for handling.

Karen restated the goal to get younger members to join our committee. Our committee currently has 12 members, and our goal is to have 15.

Karen then recapped where the committee stands to date. Karen Banta is the chairperson, John Hosler is our vice chairperson and, at times, will be leading our meetings, and Jennifer Myers is the secretary. To fit John's schedule, we will need to change future meeting dates from Tuesdays. The committee agreed to meet on the third Thursday of the every month. Upcoming meetings will be on September 17, October 15, November 19 and December 17 at 7:30 p.m.

RCIA will be starting up soon. Karen will contact them to determine if they would like us to attend meetings and welcome the students. RCIA meets on Monday nights. Deacon Ray reminded us that having our committee visit the classes helps fulfill our goal to show support and welcome the new members of our church. He also said that any parishioner may attend any RCIA meeting which we find

interesting. An RCIA calendar of classes is being made to help parishioners determine meetings they find of interest.

Karen then said she will ask Jack Buchner if our committee can help with any of his upcoming events. Someone from our committee should attend any educational event. We can then report back as to how the event went, how many people attended, etc. Jack Buchner will also be asked if he will have an evaluation of the meetings for the participants.

A message from Kathleen Willis was conveyed to the committee: She is asking for volunteers for the Family Funfest. We should ask people we know and volunteer ourselves!

Karen Banta handed out the book ordered by Deacon Ray for our committee members. The book is *General Directory for Catechesis*. There was also a handout from Karen on Catholic Education Ministries from the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The committee members are strongly encouraged to read the materials.

The next discussion was about the website. Terry Modica discussed the development of the new Cathedral website at the July meeting. She asked that all committee members think of ideas for the website, especially the section for the educational committee. Jennifer Myers mentioned that she had talked to her 15 year old daughter about what draws her to a website. Her daughter suggested Sporcle like quizzes. Rosemary Peddicord mentioned that Mary Lou Healy who would like to volunteer to work with teenagers on the website. Sally German talked about students having questions about the Old Testament and how wonderful it would be for them to have a source to ask questions to other than their teachers and parents.

It was suggested that we could post the minutes of our meetings on the website. The question of who would read them was brought up. A suggestion to post a summary of our meetings was then proposed. Deacon Ray mentioned that a summary may catch someone's eye and spur them to volunteer.

Deacon Ray mentioned how necessary it is to get as many people involved as possible. Our website, once we get it "right", will keep younger parishioners interested. Karen asked if anyone had been on the website recently. Jennifer Myers mentioned that she had tried to find information about Holy Days of Obligation on the website, but could not. Deacon Ray reminded us that it is a work in progress and we will have a wonderful website that will be updated and changed as we progress. Karen reminded us that there is now an Educational page with the members of our committee listed.

Deacon Ray reminded us that the idea of a survey is still a good one. We will discuss more at a later time.

A discussion then ensued about the idea of a Parish Directory. There was a great deal of consensus about the benefits of a directory. Karen Banta reminded us that it is a great idea that should be mentioned to the appropriate group, who can follow up on the suggestion.

Karen did mention that through the website the Educational committee can receive e-mail. It is currently sent to Deacon Ray, Karen Banta and John Hosler. A recent email was sent by a Hopkins

professor who has written the book, *The Moral Compass* and would like to speak at our church. Jack Buchner vetted the author, and she will be coming in October to talk about business ethics.

This situation brought up how such requests should be handled by our committee. John Hosler will develop a procedure to procure speakers. The question as to how our committee will handle quick decisions then arose. Jennifer Myers stated that she feels completely comfortable having John Hosler and Karen Banta continue to make decisions. Sally German agreed and added that too many people muddy things up. Karen suggested that an email be sent to the committee members before a decision was made. Jennifer Myers agreed, but asked that a response not be expected by members before the decision was made.

Deacon Ray then explained that this was an unusual situation that had come up very quickly. We should come up with a plan for evaluating speakers for future occasions.

Karen Banta mentioned that the time of the speaker in October will be Sunday 10:30-11:30, so parents with children in the Sunday School of Religion program may attend. The speaker will also sell her book, but no one is required to purchase it.

Karen Banta mentioned that she and Deacon Ray had a long chat before our meeting. Deacon Ray would like our committee to start coming up with a 5 year plan. In January, we will have the opportunity to work with a long range planner. We should focus on catecheses and adult faith formation.

We will need the demographics of our parish, which will be available in November.

So for the next few months our committee should:

- Look at materials on websites
- See what the archdioceses has available
- Arrange for speakers to come to our meetings and talk to us
- Identify parishes that are doing a good job of catechesis and visit them

We will then review the survey and send it out later this fall so we will have the results for January.

Ray has been sending information on websites and webinars. There is a great deal of information available! The committee members may need to specialize and breakdown the information since it is so overwhelming.

Deacon Ray spoke about how this came about because we wanted a vibrant faith filled community. He spoke of how our pastoral council began and the 5 core ministries (education being one of them). The committee needs to become experts on those areas and become aware of what needs to be done. This is how we will become a model to educate the faithful community. As a committee, the members must become educated and understand what we can do to reach our constituents. We are not talking about a year or months – but a longer time period.

Deacon Ray mentioned that some parishes have whole parish catecheses with yearly themes (ex: Eucharist). Then events are planned to reach all age groups through guest speakers, multimedia, websites, etc. Then at the end of the year, all the parishioners will know and cherish the Eucharist.

So, in January (most likely) the long range, strategic planner will come back to visit the 5 ministries of the Pastoral council. We will look at the demographics and what our parish is interested in and then develop a plan.

Karen Banta opened the floor to new business. There was none.

Deacon Ray then mentioned that Father Kim or himself will be at meetings to give a clergy perspective. Father Kim is covering the Liturgical and Evangelical committee meetings. Deacon Ray will attend the Education, Stewardship and Service meetings.

Deacon Ray then thanked the committee. Karen asked for a closing prayer by Deacon Ray.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00.