

Cathedral of Mary Our Queen
Education Committee

Education Committee Minutes from December 17, 2009 Meeting

In attendance: Karen Banta, Kay Dougherty, Jane Rohd, Dylan Hosford, John Hosler, Hugh Mohler, Rosemary Peddicord

Absent: Jennifer Myers, Ray Moreau, Laura Perry, Sally German, Kathleen Willis, Anne Merwin

1. The meeting began at 7:30PM with prayer led by Karen Banta. The Committee wished Karen a very happy birthday and celebrated with chocolate cake.

2. Minutes from the November meeting were approved and seconded.

3. The survey has been finished and is ready to go on-line. John Hosler and Jane Rohd will speak at the masses the weekend of December 19-20 to talk about the survey. John read the draft of the mass announcement, which was approved by the Committee. Other members of the Committee volunteered to be present in the Narthex after each mass in order to answer any questions parishioners may have. Volunteers are:

| Mass Time | Member to be present |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Saturday, 5:00PM | Rosemary Peddicord, Anne Merwin |
| Sunday, 8:00AM | Karen Banta, Kay Dougherty |
| Sunday, 9:15AM | Hugh Mohler, Karen Banta |
| Sunday, 11:00AM | John Hosler |
| Sunday, 12:30PM | Jane Rohd |

We plan to send out information on the survey via email blasts and announcements placed in the Church, School and SSR Bulletins. We will have hard copies available for those who do not have internet access.

** Note: the mass announcement was regrettably cancelled due to the snowstorms and problems with the web link to the survey.*

4. The Committee prepared for its January meeting with a professional strategic planner by focusing on two major items:

First, we agreed upon a set of long-range goals, namely, in what state we would like educational programming to be five years from now. While no definitive targets were set, the Committee specified the following long-range markers:

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1. To develop the archdiocese's model Education Program (as per Archbishop O'Brien's charge).
2. To draw a particular percentage of parishioners (in all age groups) to attend at least one educational program per calendar year.
3. To increase said participation each successive year in one of two ways: said parishioners attending more than one event and/or a general increase in the percentage of parishioners attending a single event.
4. To increase steadily the number of volunteers active in educational programming.
5. To receive quality feedback on programs offered.

Second, we suggested a set of basic ("core") educational programs to be implemented and tested in the 2010 year. Suggestions for new programs included:

1. Annual Programs
 - a. **Annual Retreat:** an overnight retreat for married couples
 - b. **"The Monsignor Armstrong Honorary Lecture Series"** (working title): an annual address given by a high-profile Catholic speaker the caliber of Scott Hahn, John Harbaugh, etc.
 - c. **Book of the Year:** a Catholic title announced in January and available in the Cathedral Library; small groups could meet periodically to discuss the book.
2. Monthly / Weekly Events
 - a. **Men's Coffee:** men of the parish would meet on a weekday morning to chat about faith and church issues; periodically, there would be meetings in which fathers could bring along their sons.
 - b. **Bible Studies:** the formation of a range of Bible study groups designed to fit diverse interests and work schedules. These would be in addition to Bible study groups currently being offered.
3. Periodic Events
 - a. **Movie Nights:** appropriate films for the entire family, followed by a discussion; to be piloted during either Lent or Advent.
 - b. **Theology on Tap:** young/adults meet at a local bar to hear a talk on theology while imbibing.
 - c. **Jack Buchner's Spirituality Talks:** these talks have so far drawn good numbers of parishioners and should be continued.

It was agreed that the above, while a set of good ideas, is just a beginning and certainly not exhaustive. The key is to develop a firm schedule of programs that will become familiar to parishioners while simultaneously affording some flexibility in the educational programs offered.

The meeting ended around 9:00, with wishes all around for a Merry Christmas.

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