



HOLY FAMILY  
Catholic Community

Holy Family Catholic Community Christian Formation Commission

Minutes for January 20, 2022

@ 6:30pm at Holy Family Board Room

**Opening Prayer - Lead by Trisha Zimmerman, staff member**

**Commission Members Present:** Andrea School, Lisa Sutton, Carmen Valenzuela, Julie Baltz,

**Commission Members Absent:** Marian Freund, Lori Ludwig, Barb Piechowski, Susan Ocampo

**Staff members Present:** Sabina Carter, Sue Kemp, Andrew Skiff, Trisha Zimmerman

**Staff Members Excused:** Fr. Edward, Kelsey

Welcome & Framing Statement:

This commission has three purposes:

- Accountability: CF Commission represents Holy Family parishioners and keeps CF Staff accountable to parish/parishioner needs.
- Brainstorming: CF Commission hears issues from CF Staff and brainstorms solutions.
- Organizing Volunteers: CF Commission actively volunteers to help organize or coordinate in CF Staff's areas of greatest need.

**Staff Program Report:**

- Sabina asked the Commission if there were any questions regarding the staff reports
  - No questions or concerns regarding reports
- Baptism Day Preparation (Fr. Edward) -
  - Sabina followed up on discussion from last commission meeting concerning parent instruction for day of Baptism.
  - Fr. Edward took this discussion to the priest team.
  - In addition to an email parents receive providing instruction for the Baptism Day the ushers will be notified when there is a Baptism and receive instruction to help the family.
- Positive/Negative Feedback from parish regarding CF
  - Andrea - Children's Liturgy of the Word going well at St. Peter. In the beginning they had about 5 kids going but now have twice that many.
  - Staff prompted if anyone has been to the 10:00am mass at Holy Family since Children's Liturgy of the Word has begun
    - Julie reported that there are children participating at Holy Family as well and that Fr. Thomas was very encouraging that families participate.

## Declining Numbers in Faith Formation Program

The Commission was asked by Fr. Ryan to have a discussion around this topic including: the facts around this issue, possible course corrections, and any solutions that could be implemented.

Here is the feedback from the Commission:

- Sabina began by listing the ways in which we are currently marketing/ advertising the program
  - All parishioners registered at the parish with children in grades 1-11 receive a postcard in the mail about upcoming Faith Formation and Sacramental Programs
  - Families enrolled the previous year, additionally, receive an email from a coordinator
  - Registration information is routinely put on social media including facebook, Instagram, and the parish website
  - Staff made promo video's that were shown before all the Masses and posted on the website
  - All program and registration information is sent out in the Good News
  - Pulpit Announcements were made over multiple weekends
  - Robo calls recorded by the priest were sent out to all families registered with the parish with children in grades 1-11
  - Personal calls were made by a volunteer and staff to families not registered for Confirmation or families who participated in Faith Formation the previous year but not yet registered for the new year
- Lisa - There is a lack of interest and understanding of the importance of coming to Church or participating in Church programs
- Sabina - Experienced families having a draw or an inkling that they should be doing something (they might sign up) but then fall short in action by not following through (never attending the program).
- Andrea - We could try surveying families not participating, making the survey as easy and convenient as possible for people. Perhaps we could find out why these families are not present, any concerns they have, or whether there is any interest to participate. We could ask questions that are open ended. This could give us a direction to go in.
- Lisa - It makes sense that as Catholics lose their belief in the real presence there would be a decline in attending Church and Church activities. Covid certainly adds to decline in participation.
- Trisha - We have seen this with families who have gotten comfortable watching Mass at home and now see this as an alternative to going to Mass.
- Lisa - There is a 3 year revival plan for the real presence of the Eucharist coming from the USCCB starting on Corpus Christi. Maybe there is something with this that will help.
- Lisa - People need to have a physical experience of faith (attending Church)

- Sabina - The parish is working on taking action through a program called Come to Me. This program invites parishioners to take on leadership roles inviting others not attending to come back to Mass and/or taking interest in those around them in the pews. The priests are currently selecting people to participate in this program.
- Sue - It used to be that you believed what your parents did and what your priest said and there was no questioning. Now there are more people questioning the faith, questioning their parents, and questioning the priest.
- Andrew - Agreed with Sue, he sees this lived out in the Confirmation Program. There are kids that questions in a deep way that helps them grow and then there are kids that because they questions something in the Church they reject the Church.
- Julie - Do we know how many families that attend Mass participate in the Faith Formation Program?
- Trisha - Parents have commented at the Parent Sessions that they like the accountability and reminder of their responsibility of being a parent. Maybe part of the issue is lack of accountability.
- Andrew/Trisha have both been emphasizing the parental role in their programming and hope to see this bear fruit in the future.
- Andrew - Encouraging parents who are participating even just by ending an email with "Thank you for all you do in the life of your child"
- Andrew - We have begun emphasizing Mass and Adoration with programs
- Suggested that we increase involvement with Adoration to foster belief in real presence
  - offering Adoration time for families
  - inviting families to stop in Adoration chapel after Faith Formation Wednesday night Mass

#### Commission:

- The Strategic Plan is being worked on in a subcommittee
  - A survey is being prepared for parishioners
    - Commission was invited to give suggestion for names - none given
  - Strategic plan will follow, after the survey, and be brought to the Commission to work on

Sabina reviewed the Spiritual Works of Mercy and how we are living out the spiritual works and which ones we still are working on developing.

#### SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

##### Counsel the Doubtful

- Fireside Chats – people seeking answers to questions about our faith can come and ask a priest. Would be live on FB as well and questions can be made anonymously.
  - Still developing
- Catechism 101

- Monthly Formed Ideas in Good News/notification of upcoming events for parishioners (GalileeU, Marriage retreats) (Rob Kratsoka)
  - These have been appearing in the Good News
- Before meeting formation (Fr. Edward and Sabina)
  - In development, finding ways to give a small piece of formation before meetings like the Commission meetings
- Prayer Resources (Marian Freund)
  - If you have any resources such as podcasts, YouTube videos, speakers, books, ect that are helpful for you please share them with Marian.

### Instruct the Ignorant

- Catechist/Catechist Training (Trisha and Andrew)
  - They have orientation for catechists separately in the beginning of Faith Formation to review logistics and policies. Mid-year they just offered a joint retreat for all catechists and volunteers to give back to them for all they do by providing a fun and faith filled evening. The end of the year they separately host dinner for their catechists to get feedback from the year.
- Parent Catechesis Group (Trisha and Andrew)
  - Both have worked parent involvement into their programs. Andrew has seminars with the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade a parent attends with their child. Trisha has the program Building the Domestic Church Parent Sessions which education and encourages parents to live out their vocation.

### Admonish the Sinner

- Confession Preparation Group
  - Still Developing
- Prayer/Fasting for Conversion Group
  - Still Developing

### Forgiving Injuries

- Confession Logistics (Julie and Sabina)
  - Fr. Edward provided insight on what would be helpful to have in a confessional. Julie and Sabina are prepping confessionals to have the items suggested by Fr. Edward. Julie continues to take ownership of doing this and left her contact information with the items in case anything needs to be restocked. She will do check ups every few months.

### Praying for the Living & the Dead

- Holy Souls Guild (St. Gertrude)-Explanation what this is and recruit 7 members
  - Trisha will do a write up of what this will entail – praying for the souls in purgatory
- RCIA and Faith Formation/Commission Prayer Group (Sabina)
  - Sabina has asked past RCIA candidates to take one day of the week and pray for the current RCIA candidates. So everyday there is one person who is intentionally praying for the current RCIA candidates.
  - Individuals have also been recruited to pray for Christian Formation, our Commission, Staff, Faith Formation, and Faith Formation families which is shown below:
  - Sabina emails both groups monthly with news, updates, or prayer intentions

Day of Week	Person Committed to Prayer for Staff, Faith Formation Families, and Commission Members
Sunday	Toni Nuss
Monday	Fr. Edward Sanchez
Tuesday	Haley Fischer
Wednesday	Mary Jo Lang
Thursday	Brian Sheahan

Friday	Amanda Zinthefer
Saturday	Sue Schmit

During the course of our discussion the questions was asked about the knowledge level of the Confirmation candidates. Do they take a test?

- Andrew - Candidates do not take a test, they do write letters to the Bishop. This year the Archdiocese has provided questions for the candidates to answer in letter format. The candidates also have an interview to verify it is their choice to receive the Sacrament.
- Trisha - Spoke to Archdiocese having very clear guidelines for K4-8 grade but none after that. There is a plan to implement getting these guidelines to the parents and over time using them from K4-8 grade which will impact a greater knowledge base when they move up to high school. The Archdiocese believes the high school level should focus on a relationship with Christ.

Commission Members to lead opening and closing prayers (Sabina)

- Sabina asked if members would be willing to lead prayer on a rotation - they agreed

Gift of Sunday (Read Session 4 ahead of time) Discussion (~20 minutes)

- Members held a discussion of Session 4 regarding the relationship of Good Friday, offering penance every Friday, to the Resurrection on Sunday, a day of feasting.

Clarify & Assign Roles until next meeting (~5 minutes) - skipped

Closing Prayer - Sabina closed in prayer

Next meeting:

Thursday, April 21, 2022 6:30pm Board Room

## Christian Formation Report January 2022

**Director of Christian Formation: Sabina Carter**

Baptism: We continue to offer both online and in-person. I have a volunteer that consistently teaches this class.

Parish Mission: Joe Heschmeyer (a friend of Fr. John LoCoco) will be our speaker for our Pre-Lent Mission Feb. 27, Feb. 28 and March 1, 2022 (with Ash Wednesday being on March 2). He will be talking on the Prodigal Son. Confessions will take place after each mission talk.

RCIA: We have both adults and students. We have a total of 10 people signed up. I have been working with unbaptized students between 3<sup>rd</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade. There are 10 children enrolled. High Schoolers will be doing a course with Fr. Fabian.

Women's Ministry: Merridith Frediani talked about adoration on Saturday, January 15. About 50 people attended Mass, breakfast and the talk. 13 small groups were offered. Check out the listings here: [https://www.hffdl.org/areas\\_of\\_ministry/christian-formation/adult-ministry/small-groups-bible-study/](https://www.hffdl.org/areas_of_ministry/christian-formation/adult-ministry/small-groups-bible-study/)

**Elementary/Middle School Faith Formation Coordinator: Trisha Zimmerman**

Children's Liturgy of the Word:

Currently taking place at the Sunday 8:30am St. Peter Mass and the Sunday 10:00am Holy Family Mass. There is a volunteer for Sacred Heart but more volunteers need to come forward to get it started.

Faith Formation Grades 1-8 (Summer and Yearly program):

Yearly Program is halfway through and numbers kept growing right along from the end of registration in September – December. Our dedicated catechists and aides have been outstanding stepping up when needed to help cover for illness. Participation in the monthly Mass has been noticeable with kids wanting to serve and take up gifts.

Summer Program preparation is under way and we will be prepping for post card to go out in a few weeks with registration opening on March 3, 2022. We are beginning to reach out to catechists.

Reconciliation and First Communion Prep:

The preparation for First Reconciliation English Program was completed with the First Reconciliation Service on Saturday, January 8, 2022. Preparation is under way for First Communions over the weekend of April 30-May1 and May 7-8. The Spanish Sacramental Prep Program completed their First Reconciliation Program in December and has started their First Communion program.

Vacation Bible School:

The program will be selected and planning beginning this month.

Other:

The Building the Domestic Church Parent Sessions have been successful. The last session in November had 106 parents in attendance. There are 3 sessions left open to anyone in the community.

Andrew and I are working together to have a catechist retreat for all catechists helping from 1-11 grade. The retreat will take place on Sunday, January 16, 2022.

**High School Faith Formation Coordinator: Andrew Skiff**

High School Faith Formation: Sunday evening classes are running smoothly, and Father Edward & Father Justin have been making consistent appearances to develop relationships with our public school youth. Cor Jesu, Youth Group, and Holy Hour are being used by the kids as make-ups for missed events. The most popular make-up is Holy Hour. Upcoming events before our next Commission Meeting include Confession Services, Safeguarding Lesson, Parish Mission, and Lenten Practices & Stations.

Confirmation: Session B is drawing to a close with retreat on January 28-30; SMSA, Saint Andrew's, and Holy Family are the three sites we use to offer a memorable and prayerful Confirmation Retreat.

Other: Youth group continues every Thursday evening at Sacred Heart School except first Thursdays. Becca Sheahan & Jacinta Gundrum host a Holy Hour every Friday night from 7-8pm for HS Formation Students; commission members are encouraged to attend this when possible.

Needs: Activity organizers; I am always looking for volunteers who are passionate about sharing their faith and ideas with the kids, either through presentations or activities. If you or someone you know fits this description, please be in touch.

**Marriage Coordinator: Sue Kemp**

Mr & Mrs Group: Facebook posts continue to be posted

Weddings: We had several wedding already in 2022

Other: I will be working remotely much of the time until after Easter.

**Human Concerns & Formation Coordinator: Kelsey Carter**

Cor Jesu: Presentation has been a good location for Cor Jesu- the smaller site provides a very intimate feel for this night of prayer. It continues to be generally well attended and it seems that many folks enjoy using this time to go to confession on a consistent basis.

Men's Ministry: 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester meetings have started and they are holding strong!

Youth Trip: March for Life January 20-22, 2022. 11 teens, Kelsey, and Father Edward are joining St. Francis Borgia parish in Cedarburg on a trip to Washington D.C. for the March for Life.

Young Adult: February 4-6 we are hosting the SEEK conference- an online conference, but we will be gathering together at the Sacred Heart campus to build community and enjoy the talks and Sacraments together.

