

Holy Family Catholic Community Christian Formation Commission

Minutes for April 21, 2022

@ 6:30pm at Holy Family Board Room

To-Do:

* Sabina: Send out the last strategic plan.
* All: read the new strategic plan and come up with action items.

Opening Prayer (Marian Freund)

Note taker (Andrew)

Commission members: Marian Freund, Lori Ludwig, Barb Piechowski, Andrea School, Lisa Sutton, Carmen Valenzuela, Julie Baltz, Susan Ocampo

Staff members: Kelsey Carter, Sabina Carter, Andrew Skiff, Trisha Zimmerman, Fr. Edward Sanchez

Excused/Absent: Trisha Zimmerman, Lori Ludwig, Susan Ocampo, Carmen Valenzuela, Fr. Edward

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: Answer any questions about attached Christian Formation Report, Issues, and Proposed/Brainstormed Solutions (~10minutes)

* Questions about CF report?
* Positive/Negative Feedback from parish regarding CF?

Sabina: Any questions on the CF report?

Sabina: Update for me on parish mission. We are going to bring Bart Schuchts back for our parish mission next year. He won’t be able to come and talk at Masses, but we will have him for three months.

Lisa: What is the theme?

Sabina: Basically “healing.”

Sabina: Sue Kemp retired, Kelsey is now the marriage coordinator. She is no longer working with human concerns, and is now CF full time.

Lisa: How many weddings do we have lined up?

Kelsey: 20-25 for 2022. This is down.

Sabina: the good thing is that Kelsey also works with young adult. If you do have any questions, please email us and ask!

Sabina: Positive or negative feedback from the parish?

Barb: The priest talk series was really well-attended.

Sabina: Tom Bestul was the emcee. The topics were great; feedback was great.

Barb: How good was the location?

Sabina: One person said that Holy Family would be a better location. The first night: 60, the second night: 90, the third night: 200, the fourth night: 150, the fifth night: 200. There was no handout for the final night, and this caused a scandal.

Julie: It would have been great to record them.

Lisa: But then attendance may have been down.

Sabina: Advent we had on Monday nights and there were conflicts. Tuesdays may be better. There was a woman with really in-depth questions and was new to her faith; the priests were able to talk to her after.

Andrew: if we advertise a live-stream or recording then attendance will go down.

Andrea: just don’t advertise the recording.

Barb: there was unfortunately no child-care.

Lisa: if it’s at Sacred Heart, I may close the chapel at that time just so that the adorers can come. We can repose for a brief time period.

Sabina: We can help you to do that too.

Lisa: people asked for the Divine Mercy Sunday if we are reposing and it’s a good question. Thankfully we have a good subbing system in place.

Sabina: It’s such a blessing that we have such an active parish.

Marian: It’s awesome that we have so many options. What’s nice is that if I miss something on ‘hell’ I can go to formed or google. You can’t please everyone; most people who fill out forms have a strong opinion about how they want to guide it or they have complaints. I’ve heard so many good things from other people. I was impressed from what I was hearing from everyone else.

Sabina: The priest team worked on what they wanted to do for topics.

Julie: That was a perfect series. Lisa: and they build upon each other.

Sabina: We had a pre-Lent mission, and we will have the same arrangement next year.

Commission:

* Ideas to help increase/retain Faith Formation numbers (Trisha, Sabina, Andrew)

Sabina: We met with Father Ryan to talk about what we can do to retain members. We will be calling people who had previously enrolled in summer program to check-in. We will also be contacting new parents and 2nd grade parents. We always send a letter to SMSA families to 1st grade and 10th grade to remind them to sign-up. In that first grade letter, we say ‘if your child is unbaptized this is the time to work that out.’ Seven-eight is the magic number, age of reason after which you have to go through (basically) RCIA for youth. Postcards in the pews for upcoming VBS dates and faith formation.

Andrew: how do we say things? Father Ryan invited us to make a ‘sales pitch’.

* Strategic Plan (Sabina, Fr. Edward)
	+ Strategic plan is being worked basing our plan around *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic* (prayer, generosity, study and evangelization) and will be brought to the Commission to develop

Sabina: Here’s a handout of our work. Based on the four signs of the dynamic Catholic by Matthew Kelly: Prayer, study, generosity, evangelization. Can people meet on May 12th? We are hopeful that this is a document that we can share with parishioners. How we are presenting this is this is a document for our committees, our priests, and all parishioners. The plan is modeled off St. Pious. We want the parish to become more engaged.

The Strategic Plan:

The team would like the commissions to come up with ideas for each of these categories.

* To inspire and equip groups of disciples to begin living as missionaries.
* To develop events into Evangelization opportunities

Go over before May 12th; that’s when we will discuss. Marian, Barb, Lisa, we were all on the last strategic plan. Are these things measurable? Can they be?

Marian: you can’t measure private prayer.

Julie: prayer networks.

Sabina: we’re providing opportunities.

Barb: you can measure improvements, and numbers.

Marian: the way it’s set up on here is better. It’s a nice report, but is it usable? I think this version is.

Sabina: that’s kind of like ‘your assignment.’ Think about what the goal is, and come up with some action items. Last time, our goals were broader, which gave us more to work on and the efficacy of the strategic plan was more long-lasting for our group. We had four separate groups working on this, and there will probably some slight adjustments in the language before our meeting in the Hall on May 12th. I will send out the last strategic plan.

Sabina: we will be working on the Gift of Sunday tonight. What did people think of reading this as a study or as a group? Can we move towards reading the four signs of a Dynamic Catholic as a group?

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.
* Marriage Retreat (Kelsey)

Kelsey: on Saturday December 10, the Arch is putting on a marriage retreat here at Holy Family. I know a lot about the logistics. Content: theology of the body & Damon Owens. He will be giving a lot of the content for that day, and there is time for adoration and confessions for couples, 9am-3pm. We are thinking of reaching out to Green Bay diocese to join us.

Lisa: is there more of a focus on younger couples, would you say?

Kelsey: Rachel did not necessarily specify. I think it could be, but the retreat kind of takes place in a series. The other topics are parenting, motherhood, theology of the body. There’s one per quarter.

Sabina: Arise Milwaukee is the day before.

Kelsey: We are hosting an Arise night the night before the retreat on Saturday. We will use this to encourage people to come on Friday night and Saturday day. Childcare is probably going to be a thing.

* Catechism 101
	+ Monthly Formed Ideas in Good News/notification of upcoming events for parishioners (GalileeU (Sabina), Marriage retreats) (Rob Kratsoka)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  Topic from Formed | Nov. | Dec-Jan | February | March  |
| Numbers of accounts | 1059 | 1126 | 1157165 shows/5,221 min. | 1210 |
| Accessed programs | (last year)Beloved, Symbolon, The Search | Dec. 2021-January 2022-Kenosis (HS FF)-Christoff and The Christmas Tree (kids)-Adventus a Spiritual Pilgrimage-Daily reflections | Feb. 2022-Rights and Responsibilities:Catholic Social teaching 101 (HS)-Soul of A ChampionThe Gill Hodge Story-Daily Reflections | March 2022 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| month | # of Formed accounts |
| Jan. 2021 | 901 |
| June 2021 | 974 |
| October 2021 | 987 |
| Dec. 2021 | 1059 |
| January 2022 | 1126 |
| February 2022 | 1157 |
| March 2022 | 1210 |

Sabina: this is our data on Formed. There are usually spikes when we recommend certain videos for at-home activities.

Lisa: they track what programs we use?

Sabina: they don’t track specifically who. For us, it is $2,000 a year we get Formed, and Formed gives access to Symbalon guides so that saves $50/RCIA candidate. We use it for online baptism class, marriage prep, the women’s group, young adults use it.

* + **~~Before meeting formation (Fr. Edward and Sabina)~~**

Sabina: this is on the backburner, we are focusing instead on retention.

* + Prayer Resources (Marian Freund)

Marian: I’ve received several resources, but cataloguing it has been interesting. How much? How do we limit it? I’m going to meet with Sarah and decide how to best put it on the website. It’s paused for the time being.

Lisa: What if we link to an external webpage for resources?

**Instruct the Ignorant**

* Catechist Training (Trisha and Andrew)

Sabina: we are continuing catechist training, twice a year.

* Parent Catechesis Group (Trisha and Andrew)

Sabina: we have monthly meetings in 1-11th grade.

 **Admonish the Sinner**

* Confession Preparation Group
* Prayer/Fasting for Conversion Group

**Forgiving Injuries**

* Confession Logistics (Julie)

Sabina: this has been really nice here at Holy Family: there is a box of things that you can bring wherever you need them. Bibles, examines, signage. That has been very convenient.

Lisa: where do we store them? Spanish & English?

Sabina: yes, Spanish in there too.

Kelsey: feedback for 12-hours of reconciliation: we need more tissues.

Sabina: boxes might be best. We had roughly 45 people/hour, and will need more priests in the future.

Barb: is that why lines were crazy at Divine Mercy last year?

Lisa: yes, there were so many things coming together at the same time. People were skipping lines. People could hear your confessions. Could we put confessions in other closed rooms?

Sabina: 12-hours counts for the dispensation.

**Praying for the Living & the Dead**

* **Holy Souls Guild (St. Gertrude)-(Trisha)**

Sabina: Trisha will explain at a future meeting.

* RCIA and Faith Formation/Commission Prayer Group (Sabina)

Sabina: we still have these prayer teams going. Praying for you every day, along with the RCIA people. I send them a monthly email to touch base and notify them of upcoming events.

Gift of Sunday (Read Session 5 ahead of time) Discussion (~20 minutes)

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

Closing Prayer (Marian Freund)

Next meeting:

Thursday, August 18, 2022 6:30pm Board Room

Future meetings:

Thursday, November 17, 2022 Board Room

Thursday, January 19, 2023 Board Room

Thursday, April 20, 2023 Board Room

**Director of Christian Formation: Sabina Carter**

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

Parish Mission: Joe Heschmeyer (a friend of Fr. John LoCoco) was our speaker for our Pre-Lent Mission Feb. 27, Feb. 28 and March 1, 2022. He talked on the Prodigal Son. Confessions took place after each mission talk. Livestreaming happened the night of each event.

This year the priests participated in both an Advent and Lenten Talk series. It was very well attended. We plan to do this again next year.

Archdiocese Lenten Mission Mass was held on March 23, 2022 at Holy Family.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults): We have both adults and students. We have a total of 10 adults signed up. Volunteer catechist work with the adults on Sunday mornings. I have been working with unbaptized students between 3rd -8th grade. There are 10 children enrolled in this two-year program. High Schoolers are working on a course with Fr. Fabian and Carmen. Holy Family hosted the Rite of Election planned by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. During the Rite catechumens (those who have not been baptized in any Christian faith tradition) publicly express their desire for baptism to the bishop. Their names are recorded in the Book of the Elect, a designation which reflects that the bishop, in the name of the Lord and the local Church, is choosing or electing them to share in the Easter sacraments. Candidates (those who were baptized in another Christian faith tradition) celebrate the Call to Continuing Conversion, publicly professing their faith and their desire to come into full communion with the Catholic Church. There were 11 churches that attended.

Women’s Ministry: A new event will be held in Fall

Small groups: There are thirteen small group sessions that happened this Winter. Group offerings include a variety of mediums: podcasts, book studies, and video presentations. There are two evening groups, an early morning session, daytime groups and a Saturday morning session.

Other: In the Fall, Holy Family will be hosting the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and GalileeU. Check the website <https://www.archmil.org/GalileeU> for possible upcoming topics.

We have prayer teams praying daily for the RCIA program participants and the Faith Formation families, catechists, commission and staff.

Fr. Edward and I hosted a three session “Come to Me” (back to Mass) program prepared by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. These three sessions showed participants how to engage with people already attending Mass and inviting people back to Mass who have not been attending. Plans are in the works to have this group bring the information to other parishioners so they can know how to do this too. We would also like to see if we can present, at least one of the sessions, to the Pastoral Council and Commissions.

The 2021-2022 school year is the first year that Christian Formation has had an official Chaplin, Fr. Edward. Fr. Edward has actively visited and taught in both the Yearly (Elementary/High School) and Summer Program. We also have visits from the other Priest Team members. Fr. Edward has also joined the CF team with our book studies and formation activities.

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

Children’s Liturgy of the Word: Currently 2 sites are participating in this program. The 10:00am Mass at Holy Family and the 8:30am Mass at St. Peter. The volunteers from Holy Family are interested in making this a year-round program.

Faith Formation Grades 1-8 (Summer and Yearly program): Yearly Program will be finished by the time of the Commission Meeting. I will be having a year-end review and retreat with all volunteers the night before our Commission meeting to get feedback for next year. Many kids exceeded the number of absences, we will be asking families to “make-up” this missed formation by participating in the parish community another way. The Building the Domestic Church Session for parents were attended by about 50% of the families. Mass once a month also was mostly well attended but dropped off for the last 2 Masses. Next year I hope to have the grades more involved to help. Summer Program preparation for lining up catechists and aides is taking place. So far, we have 129 families registered for Summer Program. Some of the sessions have already filled up.

Reconciliation and First Communion Prep: All preparation has been completed. The final retreat leading up to First Communion went great! The kids, practiced receiving Jesus, reviewed all their vocab words playing Bingo, and learned what Adoration is and what to do when you go. First Communions will be the weekends of April 30-May1 and May 7-8 with rehearsals during the week leading up to the Mass.

Vacation Bible School: The theme for this summer will be SonTreasure Island. We handed out Save the Dates at Masses on April 9-10. We have a small group of volunteers helping with the planning for the week-long camp.

Other: For the first time, I will be sending out an email blast to all parents of kids going into 4k in the fall. I will introduce myself, invite them to participate in VBS, give information on how and when Faith Formation starts, and share with them what the Archdiocese expects their kids to know about the faith. The hope is that this will help families start formation in 1st grade, give them a contact at the parish for questions, and give them something to work toward in terms of what their kid should know about the faith. Each year an email will go out by grade with this information as this group gets older.

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

High School Faith Formation: Annual Lenten Practices and Stations was held at Holy Family this year and we received largely positive feedback from parents and good attendance. We have reorganized our Shrine Field Trip this year to a more proximate location: St. Josaphat Basilica in Milwaukee (formerly, our trip had been planned to Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse). Father Edward & I are working on a plan to bolster catechist numbers by asking the people we want to assist as catechist aids for the coming year, and then as full-fledged catechists in years to come. Ideally, every Catechist would have an aide or a co-catechist, but numbers of available/willing volunteers continue to be low.

Confirmation: On April 1-3 we completed our third and final Confirmation retreat at SMSA. Father Edward, Matt Endres, Sarah Brinkley, Mike & Missy Vander Sanden, and others assisted in many ways to make the retreat successful. Bishop Haines will confirm 72 candidates on April 23rd, 10am at Holy Family, and 44 candidates on May 13th, 7pm at Holy Family. 116 Total. Please continue to keep our confirmation candidates, parents, and volunteers in your prayers.

Other: Youth Group continues to meet every Thursday, and we are seeing a growth in participation from both students and volunteers. Each Youth Group concludes with a candlelight prayer service; this past month members of HF Staff were invited to attend this service to pray for a special intention, which was good exposure for our group. Many people know that youth group happens weekly, but not many know what we actually do, or how special the candlelight prayer services are becoming for the youth. Youth group continues to function as a make-up opportunity for anyone who misses a Sunday or Wednesday Faith Formation class, and so does our High School Formation Holy Hour on Fridays at 7pm.

**Formation and Marriage 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 by about 50-75 people and it seems that many folks enjoy using this time to go to confession on a consistent basis.

Men’s Ministry: The second semester has ended, participating in a 3-week “Come to Me” study

Youth Trip: Planning for Life Teen Camp and Steubenville Conference to take place over the summer. Still spots available for teens in high school.

Mr. & Mrs. Group: Determining a new vision for this online resource for couples.

Young Adult: We are continuing to meet on a weekly basis and are currently doing a Sunday Gospel study each week. We are also continuing to have several social activities each month in addition to our study nights.

Weddings: We are approaching wedding season and I am continuing to meet with new couples as they prepare for marriage.

Other: Sue Kemp retired on April 13, 2022. Thanks to Sue for her five years of service.