

SAINT MARY PARISH, MILTON

Parish Education Commission Meeting

May 22, 2018

Chair: Deb Krausse
Recorder: Sabrina
Prayer: Lori Schrank

Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Ark

Minutes

Present: Deb Krausse, Lori Schrank, Joyce Albright and Sabrina
Excused: Mike Sessler, Rod Montanye, Mary Kay Sitter, Val Crofts

I. Lori led us in Prayer. We hope to welcome Val Crofts next time!

II. Minutes of the April 24, 2018 meeting were approved.

III. Administrative Reports.

- A. Baptism Prep. The next scheduled dates for baptism are June 2 at 2:30 p.m. and June 16 at 2:30 p.m. A meeting is being planned for some time in June to discuss possible gatherings throughout the year. The Catechetical theme for next year is "Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ."
- B. Seeds Preschool. The last Seeds class was well attended with new kiddos! Each child went home with either a butterfly they made or one made for them by Connie Bier. A meeting will be set up with Mary Kapheim to review the year and make adjustments. Classes will resume in the fall. Next year, we will begin mailing monthly invitation/reminder postcards to families with children of preschool age
- C. Family Ministry. A copy of *A Catholic Parent's Toolbox: Raising Healthy Families in the 21st Century* will be purchased for review for next year's curriculum.
- D. Elementary. Our last class was April 24/25. The Jumanji and the Sacraments theme was quite popular with the kiddos. Planning has begun for next year. First Communion was Sunday, May 6 at 10:30 a.m. One of the 6th grade girls receiving her First Communion placed a crown of flowers on Mary. The other children followed with fresh flowers for Mary. The children and their guests were quite chatty during the service. Some of the kiddos were happy to see their friends who attend classes on different days! They were so happy! Fr. Dave and I were surprised to hear people in the congregation talking ... not whispering ... during Communion. Very interesting. Karen Kraus took individual photos of the children before Mass and a group photo following the service. We ordered double the number of donuts from last year. The extras were eaten later in the day by the middle and high school youth. Each child took home with them their banner, a missionary rosary in a little bag, a First Communion candle, and their Reconciliation and First Communion certificates. The group photo was in the May 17 issue of the Milton Courier on page 2.
- E. Youth Ministry. Our last class was Sunday, May 6 from 6-7:30 p.m. There were 45 middle and high school youth present for the gathering of modified Jumanji sacrament games. There were Jeopardy-style questions at each of the stations. Baptism and First Communion

were combined for the relay in which their team's "Jesus" carried their "followers" up a hill, one at a time (in the Jumanji movie the big strong guy carries the little guy through the jungle running while being chased by bad guys). Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick were combined into an obstacle course representing the obstacles the characters faced, including the need to forgive one another, and one of the characters almost died. A donut eating contest was the game for Matrimony and Holy Orders (in the Jumanji movie, one of the character's weaknesses was cake...it made him explode). Confirmation was the only station downstairs in which there were 7 clearish blow up balls with a glow stick (Holy Spirit) inside that the group needed to get from one side of the room to the other and into a small pool on the counter without using their hands. In the movie, there was a glowing rock that needed to be returned to the eye of a creature in order to bring peace to the land. Fr. Dave took the last ten minutes in church. He read a gospel story and gave a brief "homily." There are some new guidelines and standards set by the diocese for Confirmation that includes an increase in hours and volunteering. We are working on a program for youth after Confirmation in which adults from the parish would take turns hosting a monthly gathering.

- F. Parish Involvement. We look forward to finding new volunteers this summer and provide some additional training. We are grateful for those who have been helping, but it's time for additional parents and parishioners to come forward.
- G. Registration 2017-2018. Tuition statements went to families with a balance and monies are trickling in.

IV. Policy Development

- A. None

V. Discussion

- A. There was much discussion regarding additional volunteers for Faith Formation. We also talked about re-structuring the elementary program which would give teachers a better opportunity to develop relationships with the children...and to learn their names. It's the responsibility of the parents to bring their children to classes, to Mass and for volunteering. Parents of youth could be scheduled to attend class or Actions with their children on a monthly basis. The curriculum needs to be more interactive with less of the videos and more about living the Faith. Since we are a new generation of Netflix users, there are some movies that can be used. The movie, "Little Boy," came to theaters last year focuses on the relationship of a little boy whose dad (and best friend) was sent to war. The town priest told him that he accomplished all of the Works of Mercy, his dad would come home. Check it out! Movies, guest speakers, outreach, reflections will be included. Some of us will come together sometime in June (maybe during the day) to talk about plans for training adults and children, too.

VI. Task Assignments for Next Meeting (June 26, 2018)

Chair: Joyce Albright
Recorder: Sabrina
Prayer: Rod Montanye

VII. Adjourn at 6:59 p.m.