

## HOLY NAME FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION AGENDA

St. Boniface (Garner) & St. Wenceslaus (Duncan)

Thursday, September 16, 2010

St. Boniface Church – Garner, 5:30 P.M.

*We, the Holy Name Faith Formation Commission, are called to proclaim Christ's message, to develop community, to foster prayer, to motivate others to service, to nurture and celebrate the gift of faith in the lives of our children, young people, and adults through meaningful lessons, activities, and experiences.*

### I. Opening Prayer

*We prayed the Hail Mary.*

### II. Roll Call

*Present: Greg Rayhons, George Smith, Michelle Dornbier, Pam Jones, Leanne VanOort, Becky Rolling, Mike Leerar, Father Miller*

### III. Approval/Correction of Minutes (5 minutes)

*George Smith made motion to approve. Mike Leerar seconded the motion.*

### IV. Approval of Agenda

*George Smith made motion to approve. Pam Jones seconded the motion.*

### V. Communications

*A Thank you was read from Crisis Intervention for blankets made by Vacation Bible School youth..*

### VI. In-service (5 minutes)

*A. Hooray for Adolescents (see Sept. Leaders' GRAM)*

*Input from adolescents is critical to make sure we are meeting their needs.*

### VII. Reports

*A. Director of Faith Formation (10 minutes)*

*New curriculum will be utilized this year for grades 2, 6, 7 & 8.*

*Grade level 2 will be using "God's Gift: Reconciliation" & "God's Gift: Eucharist". These materials, from Loyola Press, copyright 2009, come highly recommended from the Archdiocese of Dubuque. The child's book, family guide and special booklets for each sacrament provide a fully integrated sacramental preparation program recognizing the importance of parental involvement. This curriculum is consumable meaning it is written in and kept by the student.*

*In addition to the previous Call to Faith material, grade levels 6, 7 & 8 will also be using "The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers". This curriculum, from St. Mary's Press, copyright 2009, is a guide for young teens on what it means to follow Jesus and to be Catholic today. Grades 6, 7 & 8 all work out of the same book. The six teaching segments within the book are broken down into "God, Revelation, & Faith" & "Sacraments & Prayer" taught at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level, "Jesus the Christ" & "The Church" taught at the 7<sup>th</sup> grade level and "Christian Morality & Justice" & "The Eucharist" taught at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level. The grade level content aligns itself with the themes in the Call to Faith series. These books are not kept by the youth. Families will be made aware of how to obtain a copy if they wish one for at home use. Limited copies have been ordered this year giving catechists an opportunity for input as they use it. Grade level 6, 7 & 8 catechists have been in-serviced on using this material.*

*As previously discussed, there is a process as to how faith formation curriculum is chosen. The first step is to obtain a list of currently approved materials from the Archdiocese of Dubuque's Office of Educational Services. Approved materials must be used for all programs: age based catechesis, sacramental preparation, Vacation Bible School, youth ministry, home schooling, etc. The second step is to inquire as to how those materials have been rated at the archdiocesan level. Given those first steps exercised at the archdiocesan level, consideration can then be given to copyright dates, catechist's preferences, age group appeal, cost and appropriateness for the local programming model (weekly, monthly, etc.).*

*There are still a number of registration forms that have not been returned.*

*Ten catechists from our parishes attended the September 15<sup>th</sup> DIOCORE In-service on Scripture. Each attendee received a book "Biblical Literacy Made Easy".*

*Looking ahead: Collection of baby items for Caring Pregnancy Center in October, Collection of foodstuffs for God's Pantry in November, Cookie Walk Dec. 3, College Care packages early December, Christmas Program Dec. 12*

Safe Environment Requirements:

- *Background checks/ Virtus training for all new catechists*
- *Five separate parent NewsNotes to be sent in the months of Sept. Oct., Nov., Jan., and Feb. Number 1 was sent with the September newsletter.*
- *Youth curriculum offered yearly: grade levels 1, 3, 5, 8 & 10. Parents are to be offered a right to refuse with them signing a form stating they will implement the training at home.*
- *Documentation of all of the above is to be maintained at the local level.*

*Catechetical Sunday will be celebrated this weekend at both parishes.*

VIII. Old Business (15 minutes)

A. Opening on Faith Formation Commission

*Leanne made a motion to accept Mike Leerar from the St. Wenceslaus parish to fulfill the position on the Holy Name Faith Formation Commission Board for the remainder of the term which is 3 years. Pam Jones seconded the motion and all was in favor.*

B. Need for 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Catechist/ Catechists

*Board members will be calling parishioners and parents of 9<sup>th</sup> graders to see if they would be interested in teaching small group vs. the whole class. The board will be in contact with each other via email.*

C. Catechist Appreciation

*We will discuss at the next meeting.*

IX. New Business (20 minutes)

A. Class Times & Meeting Model (weekly/ every other week)

*Motion was made by Pam Jones to present to 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade families and teachers changing their class time to the first session vs. second session. Seconded by Michelle Dornbier. Reason for the change is Jr. High kids seem to be a bit more restless the later part of the night. An informal meeting was held 9/12/10 after mass and parents and parishioners felt this was something the board should pursue.*

B. Other

*Discussion about why kids are not registered: Those that are confirmed are choosing to attend Youth Group that is getting started soon.*

*Some are waiting to hear who the teacher will be for their kids.*

*The program itself was discussed and how we could make Wednesday night a program that the kids want to come. We have a curriculum that needs to be taught and we possibly need to have the teachers have the kids more involved in discussion and relating it to their lives. Discussion was made that we should be using the Bibles more in the classroom.*

*Possibly small groups and group the kids by sex vs. age.*

*Ideas were discussed and will continue to be a discussion throughout the year.*

C. Schedule Next Meeting

*October 13,2010 at 6:30-7:30 (Before 2<sup>nd</sup> session classes.)*

X. Adjournment

*Mike Leerar made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Pam Jones seconded.*