

NOTES from the FAITH FORMATION BOARD MTG. TUESDAY NOV. 7, 2023

We met through Zoom because Cory was out of town. *Linea Johnson, Cory Dixon, Angela Nelson, Jane Hommel, Dave Schneider, Ryan Booth, Charlotte Bosold, Kat Harris*

FF UPDATE (Cory): We're going to purchase catechist gifts for Christmas vs. only at end of the year; gift certificates to a restaurant, because we REALLY appreciate the catechists we have. RCIA has been an inconsistent group with a few catechumens and inquirers. It's hard to get a group to gel with different people each time. Adult FF is not happening because we still lack catechists for the kids' classes, so Cory is trying to cover too many bases. But we now have Talia McLane and her boyfriend Tieggen helping with the 5/6 grade class.

YOUTH GROUP: Going well, 6-10 youth each week, good discussions. Youth Mass will be Nov. 19 at 8:30. Linea has youth lectors and eucharistic ministers, ushers and greeters, and a trombone player. She hopes to connect with youth who don't normally participate in Youth Group. There's a two week break before and after Thanksgiving, then youth will be part of Advent Wreath making/gift bag stuffing on the first Sunday in December. Youth will also host an Adoration service in early December on a Saturday after the 4:30 mass.

NEWSLETTER, LIBRARY, & NEW TEACHER RESOURCES (Angela): Angela is doing a monthly newsletter to keep parents informed and hopefully encourage more parent excitement/participation. We purchased books for the library in subjects we don't have covered—marriage, parenting, trauma recovery, addiction recovery, depression. Board members are invited to suggest books they've read and found helpful/life-changing, we have a budget to purchase materials but only want to add a few which we know for sure are excellent. We also purchased a few easy-to-use no-prep games and activities for catechists to use with different age groups.

THEMES: NATIVE AMERICAN MONTH (Angela): Angela set up a bulletin board and will put out coloring/activity pages, but no story telling night. The weeks became filled up. Ryan brought a framed picture of Kateri T. and ordered prayer cards. Ryan has also spoken on Native Americans in the community over the last months—in the future maybe an educational night or tour for our parish? For December Cory wants to do Christmas Around the World and Saints during Advent. Kat suggested a tree with international ornaments and pictures of Saints. Possibly this could be combined with the Giving Tree (see below). Angela will look up free/inexpensive ornaments classes could color.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT/5-6 grade class (Cory): Matt brings a lot as a catechist but classroom management is challenging for him. He's been the only catechist but now Talia and Tieggen are helping. Dave S. sat in the class last week and will give suggestions to Matt, Talia, and Tieggen. We have energetic kids, not bad kids—have them do project-based stuff, interactive stuff. They need to be active. They are researching Saints right now to present to the others. 5/6 grade will also set up a giving tree.

GIVING TREE (Linea): Pre-Covid the sixth grade class set up a giving tree in the social hall. People missed this. Linea and Mary S. have emailed Pullman Child Welfare for a list of items to donate. Did we do tags listing items? (No, People brought underwear, socks, gloves and hats that were unwrapped). Tree needs to be set up before Christmas break. Often it was tabletop size, but Jane has a full size tree, which belongs to the parish.

ADVENT WREATHS/GIFT BAGS (Cory): The idea for gift bags for college students during dead week came out of this group, and the bags were VERY well received last year. Last Spring we did 250, 100 to STM and 150 to immediate neighbors. We'll do at least as many this year. If anyone would like to help pass out bags let us know, it takes a few outings to get them all done. Late afternoon before dinner seems to be the best time to find students at home.

CHRISTMAS PLAY: Kat will get the script from Cory and modify it. She would like the kids to sing Happy Birthday to Jesus and needs help with music/singing. Liane might be able to help, Cory will ask her. Possibility of a song in Spanish? Is there an initial practice where kids sign up for parts? Normal practices are after Faith Formation from 10:30-11. Send a flocknote to inform families and gauge interest, (though most people don't reply to flocknote. Kids need to show up at first practice to get a part).

OTHER: Wendy McCann suggested we could put the skit advertising Faith Formation on Social Media. The people at 8:30 mass are probably not our target audience and would probably sign their kids up for FF anyway. Everyone liked this idea.

RELEASING KIDS FROM CLASS: Should we have a sign-in/sign-out process and/or require parents to get their kids? When kids are let loose parents don't have any connection with the catechists. Parents need to know the expectation. Cory will follow up on this.

NEXT MEETING: **Tuesday December 5 at 7pm**. Snacks: **Jessica**, Opening Prayer: **Ryan**, Closing Prayer: **Cory**