

## FAITH FORMATION BOARD MEETING, September 5 2023

*Present: Cory, Linea, Jane, Jessica, Ryan, Kat, Angela*

**YOUTH GROUP UPDATE (Linea):** Steubenville was good, with two kids, three parents—a first time for all. Middle school camp had five youth. Jessica asked about numbers since the pandemic. Numbers are definitely lower than pre-pandemic numbers, but middle school is growing. A youth group planning meeting resulted in lots of ideas from youth and parents. Youth Group will meet from 6-7:30 Sunday evenings. An overnight retreat is in the works, possibly high school only.

All present signed up for opening/closing prayer and snacks.

**REVIEW OF LENTIL FESTIVAL:** The games and face painting were popular, but the booth was very crowded. Maybe use smaller tables and less furniture. Can information be better displayed/more visible? Put stickers with Mass times on giveaway prizes?

**FF PROMOTION:** This (last!) Sunday there will be a skit. Conveying the idea of “adventure” in announcements is good. Faith Formation promo has been good, the treat bags are popular (bags for kids with a few treats plus a card with a QR code to register). We should delete the tetanus shot question from registration. How best to invite new people and those from other cultures into Faith formation? Spanish speaking—work with Spanish speaking leaders in our parish. Africans—do they know what FF is? Also Indian, Filipino. Can we provide information in their language? We’re doing this for Spanish. It’s very labor intensive. Have QR codes for info in different languages?

**IDEA:** An Advent open house? How do different cultures celebrate Christmas? Invite them to share their traditions. Sacred Heart staff has talked about a “Pullman 101” idea, offering info for newcomers and a few outings to show them the area and help them connect with us and each other. The first outing will be to Kamiak Butte after Mass on Sept. 24.

**CATECHISTS:** We need one more for PK/K, one more for the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade class, and subs. A *RETREAT/TRAINING DAY* for Catechists, like this board talked about? Maybe later, we did not have all the catechists in place before Fall.

**RCIA:** Last year it worked OK as one group because they were all starting from the same place—ground zero. What about when people start from different places? Last year Cory felt he strayed from the fundamentals, and the focus became very preachy/teachy. He sat down this summer with different people (including Fr. Steve) to rethink RCIA and is splitting RCIA into different parts: 1. *Catholic Questions*—Pre-evangelization, no commitment, very open-ended, at Rico’s. 2. *RCIA Inquiry*—Instructional, but keep to the fundamentals. Every other Wednesday with food, and doesn’t automatically lead to Baptism at Easter. 3. *Dismissal*--Those ready to pursue baptism will be dismissed before the Eucharist at 8:30 Mass to discuss what the rites mean and form a relationship with Jesus. 4. *Sponsors*—those ready for sacraments will talk through topics with a sponsor to prepare for confirmation. 5. *Follow up small group*—for those returning to the Catholic church (“reverts”) and as a next step after baptism, Miho will lead them through the Catholicism DVDs with Robert Barron.

Kat mentioned some parents have shied away from sacraments because they’re not sure of their own faith or don’t want to commit their child to it, OR because this community is so transient, they don’t want to have their child confirmed and immediately move away. Having confirmation at the same time as everything else can be problematic. Confirmation can be used as a “coming of age” ritual, but this is not what it means.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION:** There will be classes for adults during the kids' classes between Masses. Topics will rotate from Bible study, book study, and practical topics like parenting and marriage. Kat recommended the *book Parenting with Grace by Greg and Lisa Popcak*. We have an older copy in the library and Angela ordered an updated version. It would be good to have seasoned couples who have raised more than one child and made it through to lead the class. Doubts (such as Kat mentioned) could be another topic.

**MONTHLY THEMES:** More and more our culture recognizes some months, such as Hispanic/Latinx heritage month, Native American month, etc. so we could have some decorations and activities to present a Catholic POV, such as L did for Black history month. Let Cory or Angela know if you're interested in doing something for one of these months (doesn't have to be big). This was a really full agenda however so we'll talk about this idea later.

***Next meeting: October 3***

*Opening prayer: Jane, Closing prayer: Kat, Snacks: Kat*