

## **NOTES FROM FF BOARD MEETING January 9 2024**

*Present: Cory, Linea, Jane, Angela, Jessica C., Dave S., Charlotte B.*

**Welcome/FF Update:** Advent felt hectic, but the Christmas pageant went well and seemed smoother than previous years. Kat did an excellent job coordinating, especially by inviting different families and children to participate. The play was shorter (2 pages instead of 4), which also seemed good. Our grade 1 & 2 catechist, Elisha Palmer, is taking the rest of this school year off with a new baby, and Jessica Ortiz's husband Josiah will help in this class. We didn't hear feedback from the sock drive but many pairs of underwear and socks were donated. How many came from the kids?

**Youth Group Update:** The first event of the New Year, an Epiphany party, went well, with a lively exchange. Spring will be busy, with CYC in March and a possible trip to Spokane to volunteer with Catholic Charities during Lent (weather permitting).

**Black History Month:** There is bullying and harassment of black children in our Pullman schools, along with other forms of racism as well (eg. "Go back to Mexico"). How can we address this in Faith Formation? A one-day teaching or event? The 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum is especially flexible. We could have someone older, a high school or college student, share their experiences with racism and how they faced them, and kids could ask questions. Bill Engels Jr. might be willing to do this, and we may have athletes and coaches within our own parish who have dealt with it. Jessica C. and Dave S. will look at possible people who could share with the kids. Linea suggested we also address racism in our annual safe environment training.

Racism and harassment are present not just in schools but in the rest of our community. Some in our own parish don't acknowledge this. We need to be clear that yes, racism still exists and we have zero tolerance for it. The basis of our teaching should be kindness and respect for everyone (Jessica C.)

**Lent:** Cory talked about offering adult Faith Formation during Lent, for example, the Bible study last year, which led to a discussion about small groups in general. Promoting and coordinating small groups on a larger scale would require more time/planning, but we can offer one group between the Masses during Lent. Fr. Steve has mentioned St. Thérèse of Lisieux several times this fall and people liked the devotions during Lent. We can read her autobiography to follow up. Angela saw the book with study questions included, and Angela and Jessica C. can co-lead a group. Dave S. shared an idea of putting up a poster or butcher paper along the wall so people (including families as a group and kids) can write Lenten intentions. This is simple to do so we'll do this as well.

**Supply Closets and Decorating Classrooms:** Angela asked if anyone on the FF Board would like to help clear out and organize the FF supply closets and/or decorate FF classrooms before classes begin in the fall. Charlotte is interested in helping.

**Next meeting:** Feb. 6, **Opening Prayer:** Jessica, **Closing prayer:** Ryan, **Snacks:** Cory