

NOTES from Faith Formation Board Meeting, May 6, 2025

Present: Cory Dixon, Liane Moreau, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Linea Johnson, Jessica Cassleman., Charlotte Bosold., and Angela Nelson.

Faith Formation summary (Cory)--Faith Formation classes ended last week. Easter was late this year, so First Eucharist/Confirmation mass will be Saturday May 10. Faith Formation attendance was lower than last year, especially PreK/K, with 28 families registered. PreK/K happened at a different time than other classes. Next year we'll do all classes at the same time. Also, more families with children attend 11:00 mass vs. 8:30.

We offered nursery this year. People only used it at 11:00, so we're only paying workers at that time.

In contrast, Sacrament Prep was MUCH larger, with 26 from early elementary through high school. Sacrament Prep with the whole family after the 11 am mass (including pizza) worked very well. We met the goal of having parents dialogue with kids about faith, and also of knowing which kids received preparation. We'll do things the same way next year.

RCIA had a steady and committed group. St Thomas More also had a very large group for Baptism and Confirmation; young people seem interested in exploring faith right now.

Catechists have not yet been asked whether they will teach next year. We need volunteers with a heart for children! We'll offer a catechist retreat /training this fall like we did last year.

No VBS this summer, because the group of churches dissolved. Trinity Lutheran wants to do their own, and Lutherhaven will no longer provide volunteers. Rather than trying to drag the old format along, we need to do something different. Several other churches in town offer VBS. We'll consider offering something during summer in the future.

Liane has accepted a new position for next year, so Cory will move away from our parish. Angela was asked about serving as Faith Formation Director and has agreed.

Youth Update (Linea)--Youth group ended strong, with 21 registered, and 6th graders are joining. A blessing for seniors will be in early June, Linea will communicate with all the families of seniors who are registered. Five are registered for Middle School camp, two for Steubenville. Linea hopes for more, it's a challenge to get paperwork filled out. They couldn't find a date for another House of Charity trip in spring and might try one this summer.

Faith Formation Board Bylaws (Fr. Steve)—Rewrite bylaws so they're shorter and clearer, and the purpose of the board is clear. Angela (and Linea?) will simplify the document found in the files (which is 4 pages long, some things are no longer relevant) to expedite the process.

Possible Board Members for next year (Fr. Steve) -- Several names were suggested last week, only one self-nominated, we'll receive more this week. A few were eliminated due to being on another board or health. We would like a few with younger children to help us understand how to serve working families. In the past the board was larger. We want 9 or 10 people.

Hiring a new Assistant (Fr. Steve): FF Board members are part of hiring & interviewing staff. We need a Spanish speaker; our Spanish speaking community is growing. A job announcement will be sent through the diocese. This would be a good job with a flexible schedule for someone with kids in school, 10 months/June & July off, 20 hours/week.

OTHER:

A board member asked where our Spanish families are coming from, in light of so many doing Confirmation. Mostly word of mouth, but attendance increased as we offered more Spanish masses and provided info in Spanish (e.g. announcements & posters). This is why we include a Spanish reading during every mass. Many stream the Spanish mass online.

Another asked if we have instruction during youth group. Linea said most instruction happens via social means, which is more effective with teens (example being "Catholic Pictionary"). They also discuss topics and there are service events, plus camps.

OUR NEXT MEETING is **June 3 at the church at 6:30 pm**. We need a few people for summer events, especially Lentil Fest and reaching out to new families/registering in August. There is no FF Board meeting in August, meetings resume in early September.