

Notre Dame Parish- Faith Formation Commission Minutes Thursday, Sep 18, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

Members Present: Rebecca Keune, Brian McGee, Katie Schmitt, Don Dietzenbach, Fr. Jacob

Excused: Curtis Head , Becky Trautsch, Melanie Vobr, Jami Schwickerath , Lori Andera

The meeting was called to order by Brian McGee with prayer at 5:40 PM. The minutes of last quarter were discussed and approved by consensus. Don motioned, Rebecca seconded.

The school report was presented by Katie Schmitt- Wednesday, October 22, 2025 will be the 1st Reconciliation Parent Meeting in the Parish Hall. The theme for this school year is "We are Building God's Kingdom, One Student at a Time." This year Notre Dame School is focusing on four (4) areas of Catholicity: Service integration into the school experience, Retreat opportunities available to students annually, Human Growth and development curriculum embedded into the regular curriculum outside of Religion class, and Vocation awareness is embedded in school experience and instruction. Mr. Brian McGee is still teaching Religion classes for grades 305, as well as Ms. Casterton's 1st grade class this year. The Catholicity Committee is Mrs. Schmitt, Mrs. Ringeon, Mrs. Daley, and Mr. McGee. Looking ahead, the students in grades 2 and 3 will be visiting the Shrine of the Grotto of Redemption in West Bend, IA on Friday, September 26th, 2025.

Brian McGee presented the youth and family formation report- We are still in need of a Catechist for grades 5 and 6, Adult Classroom Aides for grades 5 and 6, and 7, a Site Coordinator and Site Supervisor (assuming everyone can remain in one classroom). This is actually not a bad position to be in at this stage of the planning process. We currently had 53 students enrolled in Cornerstone for grades 1-10 at the time of writing. The Catechist In-Service will be on Wednesday, September 24. Trivia Night has been rescheduled from July 11<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> due to floor waxing in the Parish Hall. This will be our first Iowa Trivia Night-each question is about our great state!! Teams of 4-8 register online for \$20 and Doubles and Mulligans are for sale for \$5 apiece. All proceeds will support our youth. Our Back to School Retreat was cancelled due to lack of participants. Only one student RSVP'd and while I am more than happy to host social events for one student, a retreat needs a community. Youth Sports Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 21st from noon-3:00 PM in the parish parking lot. Brian sent invitations to Decorah and Christ our Hope Cluster to join us in a group trip to Catholic Heart Workcamp this summer. Christ our Hope showed interest and would get back to me pending pastor and council approval. Family Ministry took part in the Harvest Fest Parade again this year. Many thanks to Cresco Motor Company for loaning us a truck to use for this event. Mother Son Masquerade Ball will take place on Saturday, September 13th from 5:00-7:00 PM for all mother figures and sons age 0-12! RSVP's appreciated, but not required online. 14 attendees, \$58 in donations, considering moving back to Sunday. October will be our Infant and Child Loss Prayer Service on Wednesday, October 29th-more details to come!Safe Environment/POC Lesson was held for all students in grades 1 and 3-5 at Notre Dame School. Bible Review-for grades 3-5 to help them retain the basic story of salvation and their identity as beloved children of God. We will move to reviewing the Creed and Catechism next. Church Tour and Mass review for grade -the students have had a great deal of fun walking through our church! 2nd and 3rd grade field trip to the Grotto of Redemption will occur on Friday, September 26th. This will be an all day trip 8:00-5:00. 4th grade Service Learning trip to Memory Care at Evan's Memorial Home occurred on Thursday, September 11th. Students helped with a time capsule and played a dominoes game with the residents. 4th and 5th grade field trip to The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse is slowly progressing, I am waiting to hear back from them for an October trip. Kindergarten and 1st grade field trip to the nursing homes will occur in mid November 2025. Please keep up to date with the Journey in Faith Process and plan to attend one of the Regional Meetings for our area (Region 3) find information here:[Journey in Faith](#)

Brian McGee presented the adult faith formation report on behalf of Melanie Vobr- The St. Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles display will again be held at our parish from September 28th - October 5th. Flyers will be distributed early next week once we have the pick up times finalized. Communal Anointing of the Sick will be held after the 5:15 p.m. Mass on October 7th. Blessing of the Babies will be held on October 18th and 19th at the Masses. Postcards will be sent out to all children ages two and under who were baptized at Notre Dame. All children two and under as well as expectant parents will receive a blessing at the Masses that weekend. This will be the same weekend as coffee and rolls. The Liturgical Schedule is currently being made.

Into the Deep will begin again in October with our first in-person discussion being on October 19th. Updates on the Journey in Faith process: We're blessed to have several members of our parish JIF team serving on the FFC, which is wonderful. They've been doing an excellent job coordinating our parish schedule and will also be leading the October and November parish meetings. Please be sure to stay up to date on all JIF news and information. As a FFC member, it's important to remain informed and to share updates in a positive way with others. JIF is a wonderful opportunity for our parish and our Archdiocese. If you have questions about the process or the reasons behind it, jot them down, keep a list, and bring it with you to our next meeting. The most important thing you can do is to pray. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance, open hearts and minds, and willingness to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Father Jacob reported-excitment about the new Journey in Faith process and expressed gratitude to Don and Kris Dietzenbach for speaking at Masses to promote it. Fr. Jacob met with Beth Johnson, the new public relations representative for the area Catholic schools. Fr. Jacob is scheduling his presence at the school in coming weeks including lunch, recess, and classroom visits. Continuing to send birthday cards to parishioners age 75 and older, as well as to all school age children. Follow up mailings for grief support, post-baptism, and marriage are happening or will happen soon. Discussed upcoming Trivia Night plans with Brian and is ready to go. He had a great retreat week in South Dakota.

New Business- Becky Keune has agreed to remain on our Fath Formation Commission for an additional term. Curtis Head has decided that he will not be seeking a second term at this time. Faith Formation Commission members will work together to invite quality candidates to fill Curtis's role on the Commission. Our 2025-2026 officers will be: Jami Schwickerath as Chairperson, Becky Keune a Vice-Chairperson, and Brian McGee as Secretary.

**The meeting ended with a closing prayer at 6:30 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for December 18th, 2025**