

SHORT FORM REPORT

FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION

Sept. 22, 2016

PRESENT: Deb Cook, Joe D'Angelo, Carol Gabis, Marianne Hartkemeyer, John Mercado, John Meyer, Claire Tenhundfeld

FACILITATOR: Carol Gabis RECORDER: Deb Cook TIME KEEPER: John Mercado

PRAYER: John Meyer

MAINTENANCE: Using the article, "What Is Spirituality" from U.S. Catholic, we discussed questions 1, 2 and 6:

1. How do we define spirituality? Our relationship with God.
2. Christian spirituality is characterized as "having love for those who seem most unlovable." Jesus went to sinners/beggars doing something for someone. In an older Catholic way of thinking the idea was that if you were not Catholic, you would not go to heaven. But what about Jews, Muslims, Baptists and other Protestants- are they not going to heaven? Another manifestation of older way of thinking is a magical view of sacraments with Baptism defined only as washing away sin.
3. Some spiritual practices from other religions can be seen as meaningful. We noted that some of the beautiful rituals of the Greek Orthodox Church resonate with our Catholic sensibilities. Discussion of this article will be continued at October meeting.

DECISIONS: Faith Formation Commission agreed on new **objectives and strategies for 2016-17**. These will be submitted to Pastoral Council for their review and then published in the Parish bulletin.*

DISCUSSION:

1. How can we cultivate faith formation? Letting people know that we are praying for them is one way. A suggestion is to include petitions for our young adults to return to Church. Ask Worship Commission to be aware of this as a goal. Include some articles on this theme in the parish bulletin. Consider a lending library – perhaps place samplings of materials in ushers' room or in hospitality area. We need to consider the type of materials, costs, authors, relevance.
2. How do we address our parish goal to reach out in the name of Jesus to those in need? We will review the goals and strategies of the US Bishops' document, "*Go and Make Disciples*" for ideas. Goal I – We need to select a minimum of two strategies. Goal II – A workshop or presentation on how to evangelize (How do we invite other people?) Goal III. Outreach – Peace & Justice Commission and Pastoral Council also have a role in this.

REPORTS: 1. The first Bible workshops went well. Sunday had seven attendees and Wednesday ten-twelve. The next workshop is 10/9. We need to remind Fr. McMullen to make announcements at Mass when we are sponsoring events.

3. Joe D'Angelo participated in the University of Dayton online course, "Introduction to Scripture". This course is a pre-requisite for most of the other courses. Cost is \$50. For some courses you need to purchase or borrow a book, but other readings are online. Time commitment is about one hour per day. This was a five week course requiring 3 posts on each Discussion Board in addition to a weekly quiz. Overall this is a very good experience.

Next meeting: October 20, 2016.

***Little Flower Faith Formation Commission** Objectives and strategies for 2016-2017

- **cultivating faith formation,**
 - Parishioners will have grown in the depth of their **spirituality**.
 - Members of Faith Formation Commission will study aspects of spiritual formation and reflect on their helpfulness for adult parishioners. [ff, ct] 12/31/16
 - Adult parishioners will participate in a day or evening of reflection. 4/15/17
 - Faith formation opportunities focusing on spiritual heroes or heroines will be offered for parishioners and guests. 5/31/17
 - Resources on various prayer types and forms will be available to parishioners. Lent/2017
 - Experience of Church seasons will have been enriched through a variety of opportunities for **liturgical catechesis**.
 - A minimum of two intergenerational events to educate and celebrate around liturgical seasons will be offered. 5/31/17

- Digital lessons and printed resources for the seasons of Advent and Lent will be made available to parishioners. 3/31/17
- Articles on saints of the liturgical calendar will be presented. 5/31/17
- Digital study sessions introducing lectionary scriptures will be offered. 5/31/17
- The number of parishioners growing in their understanding of **Scripture** will increase by fifteen percent.
 - A series of workshops providing adults with knowledge of biblical formation and the Catholic approach to scripture study will have been presented. 11/30/17
 - Online and digital study of Scriptures and scripture topics will have been promoted. 12/31/17
- Parishioners will be current in their understanding of the **21st century Church**.
 - A minimum of three opportunities (print, digital or live) on topics of **contemporary Catholicism** will have been offered. 5/31/17
 - Virtual Learning Community and other online Adult Faith Formation learning on contemporary topics of Catholic faith will be promoted. 12/31/17
- **Reaching out in the name of Jesus to those in need.**
 - Understanding and effectiveness of **evangelization** will have grown through targeted learning and commitment.
 - Faith Formation Commission will study current research on retention and exit rates of Catholics from the Church, especially that of young adults. 2/28/17
 - Faith Formation Commission will be familiar with the goals of *Go and Make Disciples* (ff,pj, ct) 12/31/16
 - A minimum of two strategies will be selected and implemented from Goals I of *Go and Make Disciples*. [ff] 5/31/17
 - Parishioners will participate in a workshop or presentation on how to evangelize (Goal II). 5/15/17
 - Efforts for invitation and hospitality for faith formation events will be examined and increased. 12/31/16

SHORT FORM REPORT

St. Therese Little Flower Parish

Peace & Justice Commission

Date: October 10, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Anne Boyd, Kathy Hays, Debbie Otero, Claire Tenhundfeld, Don Weinkam,

ABSENT: Marian Kaiser, Jodi Knollman

Recorder: Kathy Hays

Maintenance: We reviewed Chapter 2 of "Laudato Si" and utilized the study questions as a guide. In this chapter Pope Francis speaks of biblical history regarding the creation story and refers to our relationships with God, our neighbor and the earth. Our world is in need of development and God relies on us to make the best use of the resources and use only what is needed. The Church should protect mankind from self-destruction.

Discussion: 1. We discussed how we will communicate what we have read/learned from reading "Laudato Si" with the parish- we will wait until we have completed our study of this before sharing information with the parish.

2. Responding to the needs of refugees- we discussed waiting until after the election and possibly invite Scott Stephens to speak on this topic. Maybe hold a clothing drive for refugees?

3. Evangelization- The parish is working to reestablish the Worship Commission. We discussed placing a question each week in the bulletin regarding evangelization, why does the church think this way, and then provide the answer the next week to allow the parishioners time to reflect on the question.

4. Outreach Activities- Peace and Justice Commission members will research outreach activities and present them to the parish to determine what parishioners are interested in. Kathy will research Matthew 25 Ministries, Don is currently involved in making sandwiches for the Mercy Neighborhood Ministries and will report on this opportunity and Debbie will talk with Julia L. regarding blanket/quilt making. We also discussed possibly include simple recipes with the food given out by St. Vincent De Paul- maybe do a survey to see if there is an interest in this?

Reports: Approximately 20 people attended Tony Stieritz' and Colleen Gerke's presentation on *Faithful Citizenship* and those who attended had positive comments about the presentation. Pastoral Council will be doing a survey- at this time it is not clear if it is about the commissions or for the commissions to complete.

Goal III Strategies for Evangelization from "Go and Make Disciples" It was decided we will discuss this at our next meeting.

Next Meeting: November 18, 2016 at 7:00 pm