

MINUTES

Family Life Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 29, 2012

Present: Verna Panka, Maury Oehler, Ann Grunwald, Kristine Henna, Shirley Cipra, Doris Krogman, Nancy Becker, Jeri Kluesner, Mark Grunwald

Absent: Mary Prindle, Lettie Oehler, Mary Novey

Meeting called to order at 6:35 in teacher's lounge of St. Gabriel School. Opened with a prayer. No written minutes from May were presented. Welcomed a new member to the committee....Kristine Henna.

15 **angels** were ready and committee members were asked to take two or more with them for delivery . Diane Day is working on additional angels and Nancy is producing the prayer cards. Committee members are encouraged to send a special thank you to Diane for all her hard work. Nancy shared a thank you letter received from Kurt and Peggy Smith in appreciation of the angel in memory of their nephew.

The 5-day **mission/retreat** has been set up for November 11-15, 2012. It will be led by Fr. Tony Stephens of the Fathers of Mercy. Fr. Weighner has placed several notes and updates in the bulletin so that people can mark their calendars and plan for this event. It will be held at St. Gabriel's church this time. Tentative topics for each evening are: Role of Church in our Life, Role of Prayer in our Life, God's Mercy and the Commandments, Why Bother?, and The Rosary.

It was suggested that Fr. W inquire about the possibility of directing the Wednesday night service towards youth. CCD students could be invited to attend in lieu of class.

We are planning to offer a mission store every night. Vendors will be contacted by Maury -- the Shrine in LaX , Ann -- Avalo in PdC, and Verna -- Masters Touch in Decorah.

Shirley Cipra will plan and handle the music once we know more about the expectations for each service.

Verna will look for sample cover art for programs in Decorah.

A social will be offered on the last night after the mission concludes. Coffee, milk, bars and cookies will be available.

Nancy will contact individuals in the parish about coordinating and offering child care for each evening: Rhonda Stubbe, Shelly Fulcher, Julie Schweiger.

Committee suggested that a question box be placed at the mission so that people can anonymously ask things that come to mind during the mission event.

Teaching the Way of Love (parents as child's teacher about relationships and sexuality) will be offered to parents in our parish sometime this year. Alice Heinzen will be the presenter. Fr. Weighner has already put some information in the bulletin about this but a date has not been established. As this program is now required by the diocese, we are leaving this up to Fr. W and the principal to plan. We will be available for support if needed in any way.

Comments of appreciation were made regarding Fr. Weighner giving **the blessing** each month for couples celebrating an anniversary. More needs to be done by our parish to make people feel welcomed and cared about. It was suggested that a “**Welcome Corner**” be placed in the bulletin each time a new member joins our parish. Verna will contact Lana. Once we know the names, our committee may be able to plan a personal contact for each new member. Due to the demands of the parish mission this fall, we are tabling plans for a **Welcome breakfast** until spring.

Ann volunteered to get the **Faith Alive Bible study program** going again for this fall. She suggested another book in the Ignatius Catholic Study series. Nancy suggested that we investigate using the new book by Christopher Ruff “The Catechism-Book 1: The Creed”. The committee decided to go with this series if it is available for purchase and the Ignatius book in the spring. Ann will follow-up on this and will begin contacting past participants. She will also invite new participants once she has the details worked out.

Parish nurse, Shirley Cipra, gave a report on this community program. She and Rose Bauer are very busy and could easily use up to 3 additional nurse volunteers. The current economy has increased the need for those who fall between the cracks in the health care system. Referrals come from family, friends, pastor, doctors and Faith in Action. Parish nurses visit those in need in their homes, assess and make appropriate medical referrals, and offer a monthly blood pressure screening at St. John’s Church. Suggestion was made by the committee to ask for volunteers in the parish to receive training and assist with this program. Shirley will ask someone from the hospital to help in writing up an announcement and Nancy will assist her if no one is available.

Suggestion made by Maury to develop a “**Little Library**” **book box** to display, loan and exchange Catholic books and materials. This would be similar to the Little Library boxes already available in the community with general entertainment type of reading materials. Maury will follow up on this idea by contacting Fr. Weighner for permission and investigating the cost of construction. He will report back at our next meeting.

Ann Meyer and Mary Jane Mezera would like to encourage more people to become involved in the traditional devotions to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary**. Last year a special prayer and blessing were offered on the Feast of the Sacred Heart. Ann will share a DVD with Verna on how to encourage more involvement and will be invited to present information at our next meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 26 at 6:30** in St. Gabriel’s teacher lounge.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Becker, FLC secretary