

FAITH FORMATION REPORT
January 2007
Middle/High School/Youth Group
Presented by: Julianne Donlon

Catechist In-Service and Fellowship Night

A joint catechist in-service and fellowship night took place at Legends in de Pere on January 10th. This was an opportunity for catechists to mingle, enjoy some food and fellowship in the company of Fr. Don. The evening was a simple way to thank the catechists for all of their work to date and the spirit of cooperation that was evident on this night was heart warming.

Rite of Enlightenment

On January 13th at the 4:00 p.m. mass at St. Judes the Rite of Enlightenment was held for 10th grade students. During this ceremony they received as a gift from the parish a tool of their faith which was blessed by Fr. Don and they formally enrolled in the confirmation program. This grade received Fr. Mc Brien's Teen Catechism of the Catholic Church to further them in their study.

Confirmation Meeting

A 3rd Candidate/Sponsor meeting was held at St. Joseph's Church from 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Jan 31st and was well attended. Fr. Pete presided over an examination of conscience and prayer service for the candidates and their sponsors. The deadline for materials due on this night were observed. The deadlines and remaining important dates are as follows:

Due Date: January 31st

1. Letter of Recommendation from sponsor
2. Choosing of Saints Name (please have form completed on this night)
3. Baptism Certificate (copies are required)

Due by March 7th

4. Letter to Bishop from candidate (return to Julianne)
5. Faith Journals
6. Confirmation Service Hours (5 for community/5 for school=10 Total) to be returned and signed.

Remaining Confirmation Meetings:

February 28th- Candidate and Sponsor at St. Joseph's in large school hall. 7:00-8:30 p.m.

March 10th - Rite of Commitment@ St. Joseph's Church 10:00 a.m. mass

PLEASE NOTE: Confirmation Practice Change

April 28th - 9:00-10:00 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church-Candidates, Sponsors and Parents.

It is essential that all candidates attend this meeting. Sponsors are also welcome to attend.

Ash Wednesday Service and Lenten Reconciliation Service

A Lenten reconciliation service and Ash Wed service will be held for all grades. It is important for **all** Confirmation students to be present at the Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. on Feb 21st and to make a reconciliation during Lent. The date of the Lenten Service for High School students is March 21st at 7:00 p.m. Additional priests will be available on this night to hear confessions.

Lessons by me!

On March 17th I taught the 8th Grade class from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. in order to get to know the students better. I intend to have taught at all grade levels by the end of April. The lesson on this night was entitled "If you don't want to eat with the Devil, then don't invite him over for dinner!" Needless to say the class was enjoyable, humorous and well received.

Youth Ministry

Vital Youth Ministry Training

On Saturday January 27th I attended the first Vital Training Session for the Diocese. There were representatives present from approx 70 parishes on the day and more are to follow. There are 7 classes left to be held over the next 2 years. It is my desire to put together a team of 5-8 people in order to build a secure youth ministry base for the parish. This is a wonderful opportunity to train those who would like to work with young people on a more formalized basis. I am still seeking the names of those who would like to be a part of this process and any help in this regard would be greatly appreciated. These adults would form the basis of a team involved in coordinating youth events, masses etc for our parishes. Any ideas as to who would be good for this???

Mission Trip

All high school students including graduating seniors are invited to to St. Louis, MO on July 5-10th for a Steubenville Retreat experience. The conference is hosted on by the Franciscan University of Steubenville to be a retreat based on the Eucharist and bringing teens to Christ through the sacraments. Newly ordained priests, Fr. Walter Stumpf and Fr. Quinn Mann will be traveling with us along with other chaperones involved in Catholic youth ministry. Cost of the trip is \$400 although each year most students are able to fundraise through their parishes to cover the cost. If you are interested in attending please talk to Julianne at 497 7042 or Maria de Meuse at 494 9591.

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Don Bosco Youth Center Proposal

I put together a formal proposal for the Greater Green Bay area regarding the West side Youth center here at St. Josephs Parish. Here are some highlights from the proposal encouraging all parishes to sign up:

Ministry Profile: St. Joseph's Don Bosco Youth Center

Introduction:

“What is needed today is a church which knows how to respond to the expectations of young people”.

(Pope John Paul II, World Youth Day 1995, Philippines)

Entire church (parish) involvement is the key to encouraging young people to worship together and to be nourished by sharing in the life of the Church. Young people have a hunger for connection, to be in relationship, and to belong. At the heart of ministry with young people is the presence of caring, supportive relationships where youth experience the Good News in the flesh. To this end the former convent at St. Joseph's Parish will re-open as the St. Joseph's Don Bosco Youth Center to serve the needs of the youth of Green Bay. In conjunction with the parish of St. Peter and Paul, a center is being opened for youth on the East side. Both of these centers will compliment the work of each other and will reach out to a large proportion of Green Bay youth. Many parishes have come together to work and renovate this space but more help is appreciated.

Features of the Youth Center:

Game Room/Activity room: The game room and activity rooms will have Tvs, DVD players, big screen projectors and game tables (pool tables, air hockey, ping pong, etc) for youth to relax and hang out.

Pope John Paul the Great Chapel: Pending Diocesan approval to consecrate the chapel once again for Mass, youth will be able to participate in Eucharistic adoration, attend mass, and pray quietly in a serene atmosphere. A donation of a hand carved crucifix and altar from Italy has already been procured.

Small Rooms: Each of the small rooms (formerly bedrooms) will be named after a saint to inspire the students to role model the power of faith in action. These rooms will be used for retreats, overnights etc.

Dining room: Youth will be able to avail of snacks and meals when provided at the center and eat collectively in the dining room.

Kitchen: A fully equipped kitchen will be available in order to prepare meals and snacks for youth.

Reading Room: A quiet space will be provided for youth who wish to read or study. The reading room will house many religious books for youth to peruse.

Coming Soon! Computer Room: Wireless internet and computers will be provided for students enabling them to complete homework, research material etc.

Arts and Crafts Room: Room will be equipped with supplies for youth to engage in creative projects.

Vision Statement/Mission Statement:

Rooted in the mission of Jesus Christ we strive to share with youth the Catholic faith handed down from the Apostles, through the Tradition which forms us, the Scriptures which guide us and the Sacraments which grace us. To be a universal Church we must enliven our youth community to actively participate in our Church.

Members/Parishes Involved: All parishes from the Diocese of Green Bay are invited to take an active role in staffing and scheduling activities at the center.

Staffing: Provided on a rotational basis by parishes who would use this space.

Hours of operation:

Mon: 4:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

Tue: 4:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

Wed: Closed for Religious Education Classes at St. Joseph's Parish.

Thur: 4:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

Fri: 4:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

Sat: 1:00-6:00 p.m.

Sun: Closed

Grand Opening: A grand opening will take place on **April 15th** from 11:00-2:00 p.m. after the 10:00 a.m. mass at St. Joseph's Parish.

Age: Open to all middle school and high School Students

Suggested Activities:

Social Activities:

Movie Nights

Lock Ins

Christmas Cookie Bake Nights

Game Nights

Pool league

Spiritual Enrichment:

Teen Eucharistic Adoration

Bible Study

Prayer Groups

Nights Out:

Mother/Daughter Night

Father/Son Nights

Girls Night Out/ Boys Night Out/

Possibility of Retreats:

Youth Retreats

TEC Retreats

Parent/Teen Retreat

Service Opportunities:

Saturday Morning Babysit/Drop Off

(Confirmation students babysit for service hours)

Operation Christmas Kindness

Craft Evenings- making cards for

homebound parishioners/troops overseas