

SAINT MICHAEL EDUCATION COMMISSION MINUTES

March 1, 2007

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:10pm, Jamie Alvord led us in prayer.

IN ATTENDANCE: Jody Farrell, Jamie Alvord, Steve Gehring, Audrey Clark, Susan Jansing, Anna Geoppinger, Sherry Reilly, Sam Kemp, and Laura Strachan.

MINUTES: Approved as written, Commissioners were e-mailed a copy.

PRINCIPAL REPORT:

- Registration of new students for next school year has been slow due to a weather cancellation initially. There are 400 students expected to return next school year. All day kindergarten is full, there are 12 other children registered for kindergarten.
- Lori Thompson has been spear-heading a PTO effort to extend advertising to the West Chester and Blue Ash areas. An ad will appear in the West Chester Welcome Book and in the K-Mart flier. Currently, one kindergarten child has registered from Saints Peter and Paul.
- Easter sacrament preparation is in full swing for our students. Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation will be received in the next couple months.
- Eighth grade students had their confirmation retreat March 1 at Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford.
- A Wellness Policy was passed out to all commissioners for review by our next meeting. Approval is needed by the Education Commission.
- It's time for another penny challenge! Monies collected by the students will be donated to St. Gabriel's parish in New Orleans.
- May 3 is a National Day of Prayer. Students will be saying the rosary.
- Catholic Schools Week coverage in the Catholic Telegraph had the St. Michael School banner pictured on the front page.

AFF:

- Evenings of Reflection will kick off Tuesday, March 6 with Father Jack Wessling. Following an Easter break, they will continue on May 1 with Mary Molloy and Jeanne Hunt focusing on Mary.
- 07/08 dates being planned are: 10/02, 11/06, 12/04, 01/08, 02/12, 03/04 - 05 parish mission, and 04/08.
- Project Hope had a second successful Mission the week of Feb 10 at St. Gabriel, New Orleans. Forty three adults went, finishing work on 7 homes, cleaning out former offices and working to clean the parish hall. Additionally, insulation and drywall were hung in the sacristy area.
- Several parishioners are planning to go back in April to work on Fr. Doug's rectory. They will be hanging insulation and drywall.
- RCIA had 6 adults presented for the Rite of Sending February 25 and after meeting with the bishop that evening at the cathedral are now considered, "The Elect." Scrutinies begin the second week of March.

-Journeys into Luke bible study have 18 participants Monday evenings and 6 participants Wednesday mornings.

YFF:

-Preschool (PEP) ends April 1.

-Religious Education Classes end on April 2.

-First Eucharist pictures for day school and REP scheduled April 19.

-High School Sharing:

-Retreat recently held weekend of February 17

-Students planning return Mission trip to St. Gabriel, July 21 - 28

-World Youth Day has 7 students signed up, fund raising in progress

-Valentine Angels took African Violets and handmade notes to the

bereaved of our parish last month

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

-Leadership Day, March '07; Jody plans to attend, unfortunately this date conflicts with the Catholic Men's Conference.

-Hospitality Weekend March 17 & 18, Education Commission hosts as follows:8:00 Steve, 9:30 Sam and Sherry, 11:30 Anna, Jamie and Laura. Susan will do artwork for a poster representing the activities our commission is a part of using the Stepping Stones template.

-Discernment for parish leadership roles will be held May 17, 24 and 31. Sessions will begin at 7:30 in the Assembly Hall.

-Stepping Stones is a new communication tool put in place by Parish Pastoral Council. Education Commissioners are unclear of our role at this point, we will await more information.

-Calendar Update: It was suggested that the parish website calendar section could be referred to for information. Instead of a year long calendar, discussion centered around considering a monthly calendar. Would anyone consider being the "Calendar Master?" One reference identified is: calendarwiz.com. Commissioners felt this might be a tool that could be passed on to the Stepping Stones Committee, because as we understand it, communication is at the heart of their efforts.

-Divine Mercy Sunday: Sherry passed handouts to all commissioners. She will present the information to Fr. Jeff. Discussion ensued that perhaps we could pursue a speaker who could present the practice and celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday for our January 8, 2008 AFF offering.

-Mother's Day to Father's Day Baby Item Collection: Tara Koch of the Community Outreach Commission will contact the Pregnancy Care Center. Plans are underway to write bulletin and Messenger articles.

-May Crowning is set for May 6, 2pm organized by our Knights of Columbus. First Communicants, Confirmandi, RCIA participants are especially invited. The Fourth Degree Knights will join us in their dress attire, participants are asked to bring a flower, in addition the K of C will have some extra flowers available. An ice cream and cookie social is planned following the event.

CLOSING PRAYER:

-Offered by Jamie Alvord.

NEXT MEETING:

-April meeting cancelled due to conflict with Holy Week Services and Easter Break.
Next Education Commission Meeting will be held, Thursday, May 3, at 7:00pm, Steve will lead us in prayer.

-Final Education Commission Meeting planned for June 4, 2007, 7:30pm at Laura Strachan's home.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Jansing