

Education committee notes

February 2, 2017

Present – Mary Kate McCormick, Mark Kunstman

Submitted recommendations – Jan Liss, Linda Cummer, Jim Stollenwerk, Sharon Brabson, Lee LeVoy

Adult Faith Formation Update/Review

Meeting Christ in Prayer update – no leader now

Advent Small Groups review – Advent Conspiracy offered an opportunity to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas and changed the hearts of all those who participated. It was recommended that the committee offer a follow up prior to the next Advent season.

Lent Small Groups recommended the program - *Lent and Holy Week* opens the writings of Thomas Merton in easily digestible pieces and eloquently pairs them with the words of other great spiritual thinkers. Designed for use in new or existing small groups between Ash Wednesday and Easter, this booklet offers readers an accessible introduction to contemplative dialogue and is built around eight compelling Lenten themes:

- Week of Ash Wednesday: Where Do We Turn for Forgiveness?
- First Week of Lent: Living More Deeply in Christ
- Second Week of Lent: A Season for Compunction and Tears
- Third Week of Lent: In All Things, Always Seeking God
- Fourth Week of Lent: Choosing with Christ to Love the World
- Fifth Week of Lent: In the Service of Peace through Humility and Prayer
- Holy Week: Returning to the Source of Our Unity in Christ
- The Resurrection of the Lord: Liberated to Redeem the World

The [Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton series](#) enjoys widespread popularity and is ideal for parish-based small group programs, religious communities, and contemplative retreat centers.

Book Club update - We just reviewed "The Abbey" by James Martin S.J. We had good and lengthy discussion of the book and what it meant to us. Our next book is "Evicted: Poverty & Profit in the American City" by Matt Desmond. The review is due on April 10th. The next books are as advertised, "A Good Man is Hard to Find" by Flannery O'Conner reviewed on May 8th. The next book is "The Road To Character" by David Brooks the columnist, to be reviewed on June 12th.

We will probably be reviewing new books to add to the list at the next meeting on April 10th. We have also asked the book club members to put together a list of books on the environment which we can publish for "Earth Week" which runs from April 22nd thru April 29th. The 29th is Arbor Day which makes an appropriate end to Earth Week. Wayne Kudick requested that we do this and publish it just prior to "Earth Week".

Our membership remains enthusiastic and vibrant as we "read on"! Membership is steady!

Men and Women Faith Formation

- Men for All Seasons Conference, March 4 KI Center, Green Bay – recommend that this be published in the bulletin and offered to the men's faith sharing group
- Men's faith sharing group invited to participate in the Stella's "On Care for Our Common Home" effort spearheaded by Wayne Kudick by offering care for the environment scripture passages
- Alpha program (GB Diocese, see handout) – key parishes have been identified to test the program.
- Dynamic Catholic by Matthew Kelly diocese recommendation – Mark called Debra Wegner-Hohnesee awaiting response regarding details that will be offered to the men

- St Ignatius movie recommendation by the pastor - <http://www.ignatiusmovie.com/sponsor-screening/> Mark responded: "The offer for the movie is intriguing. There are several logistical challenges with presenting the movie besides the \$650 cost. First, it is my belief that the parish lacks the necessary technology to present on a large screen and sound quality movie screening. Second, typical timing to promote marketing an event is usually projected out 8 weeks or more. It would be a stretch to formulate a plan and have enough volunteers to make this work now. Third, during the month of March the parish and county has the lowest census of the year." Committee thoughts?

Youth Faith Formation Update/Review –

- Due to inclement weather on January 10, the First Reconciliation Service will now take place right after class on Wed. February 15th in BH complete with the prayer service previously planned and a pizza party to follow.
- A prayer service for all the children will be given this week, January 18th with a focus on St. Peter.
- Families of Faith will be informed via a meeting later in February regarding Stations of the Cross during Lent which will take place on Wednesdays beginning at 5:45 followed by a soup/sandwich supper in BH. I will be leading the Stations and requesting families to attend at least one Wednesday during Lent. Hopefully this schedule will encourage them to attend with their children because that is the time the class ends (5:30). All parishioners will be invited to attend too. This is a switch from having Stations on Fridays at noon as occurred over the past couple of years. The Knights will be doing the cooking and serving. God bless them!
- Confirmation Class is going well. I just wrote a bulletin article on their service hours. We are working on a plan to keep these students involved after they are confirmed...it is just in the idea stage and will report more when I know more.
- Once again, the Christmas program was well attended. The goal of having all the children involved and learning how important it is to prepare for the birth of our Lord...here and around the world...was achieved.
- Offerings beyond class time was discussed such as outreach to Catholic parishes in Sturgeon Bay, CYE Camp and Shepard of the Bay. It was recommended that this be increased for the students to grow in their faith.
- Suggestion box discussion – it was recommended that one be created in order to offer any student, teacher or parent an opportunity to express thoughts that would advance the mission.

Discussion/Recommendations –

- CRHP update – Women's Morning of Reflection, Saturday, May 20, 2017, 8am-noon. In the past 5 years, CRHP Cont. has offered this for women of the parish. Chris Wehrs organized the publicity, hospitality and environment through CRHP in 2015 and 2016. This date needs to be put on the calendar.
- Word on Fire Lent 2017 by Bishop Robert Barron special offer – expired, committee offered to worship committee
- Environmental Small Group Study - Possibly could be offered as a late spring- summer small group study. If you decide to go forward with this, please stay in touch with Mark as Adult FF chair. [Catholics Going Green: A Small-Group Guide for Learning and Living Environmental Justice | Ave Maria PressWayne](#)
- Burning Hearts Program April 6
- Annual Calendar (see handout)
- Faith Formation Committee Membership – Mary Kate and Mark will reach out to parents and invite them to be a part of the committee.
- Next meeting date discussion – year in advance meeting date was recommended, it is believed that the committee generally chose the third Wednesday of the month and will look for feedback regarding such.

Respectfully,

Mark Kunstman, Chairperson Education Commission