

**Stella Maris Parish**  
**Faith Formation Team Meeting Notes**  
**January 17, 2012**

**In Attendance:** Sharon Brabson, Mary Seeberg, Joan Schultz, Mary Ellen Waldvogel

**Welcome and Prayer:**

Sharon welcomed the team and opened the meeting with prayer.

**Update on Longing for the Holy**

Longing for the Holy groups finished the last six sessions during the Advent season. All agreed this was a very good program and led to reflection, discussion and sharing within the groups. While each group lost a few members most went on to finish the sessions. Many in the small groups expressed a desire to meet again in Lent. The Faith Formation Team will offer an Old Testament Bible Study for groups during the Lenten season. See more detail below.

**Called to be Holy Parish Goals**

Sharon and Joan (representing the Pastoral Council) updated the team on the two goals Stella Maris has committed to for this year. The first was one the Diocese asked all parishes to focus on, namely the Eucharist. This includes instituting the new Roman Missal changes as well as increasing Sunday Mass attendance. We are well on our way with the Mass changes and feel we have done well as a parish in this area. The Pastoral Council will be forming ideas for reaching out to those who do not participate in the Sunday liturgy. We also look for input from all other organizations. The second goal we are focusing on is Youth, young adults and families. This goal was chosen by the Pastoral Council as one where our parish needs to focus. Liaisons have been asked to work with each organization to get ideas and set their own goals for assisting in this parish wide effort. See below for the Faith Formation Team's response.

**Youth Planning**

Mary Ellen updated the committee on her efforts in getting our youth involved in a Mission Trip. She has set a personal goal to get a minimum of four Middle School (or HS) students to participate this year. There is a Middle School trip planned through Young People in Action for Detroit in June and Mary Ellen has reserved four seats for that trip. She is working with the Faith Formation students to get them interested. The parish will support much of the financial piece of the trip largely with funds from the Steak Dinner fund raiser. We felt it would be good for the youth to also be involved in raising at least a small part of the cost. We discussed selling 'Stock' at perhaps \$10 a share to parishioners in support to the mission trip. Mary Ellen will give us an update on these efforts at our February meeting.

Joan Shultz is also following up on efforts to involve the students in social and service activities. She will contact Scan to inquire about Faith Formation Middle School students spending about one hour at Scan leading a Bingo Party for the residents. She is also talking to the youth about other social events they may be interested in.

### **Parish Lenten Plans**

Ash Wednesday is February 22. Our Parish Mission will run from Feb. 27 through March 1. Vivian Williams will be the speaker and will also talk at the weekend Masses the first weekend of Lent. We will also be offering a group session on the Old Testament which includes a video, workbook and discussion. The videos are expensive. Mary Ellen has one set and will look into the possibility of buying one additional set for the parish. We will plan a group in Sister Bay on Tuesday evenings and a group in Egg Harbor on Thursday afternoons. This was based on the times of the Longing for the Holy groups which seemed to meet the needs of most. The workbooks are \$20 and the cost will be passed onto the participants. Mary Ellen will care for publishing this in the Parish Bulletin. She also has an alternative program for Washington Island which is also based on the Old Testament.

### **Monthly Women's Initiatives**

With the goal of offering a parish wide social and /or spiritual activity for all women of the parish on a monthly basis, the following activities are being planned.

- February: Art & Scripture Presentation and Tea
- March: Focus on Lent: Invitation to attend a week day Mass and Breakfast together
- April: Pot Luck Supper / entertainment
- May: Trip to Holy Hill, Cathedral
- June: Wine & Rosary
- Summer: Day of Reflection

### **Movie with a Message**

Mary Seeberg said her Longing for the Holy group would like to suggest a 'Movie with a Message' evening which would bring parishioners together to view a film and look for insights to their faith. Discussion would follow. Perhaps popcorn or other refreshments could be served. The committee thought this was worth trying. One will be held on Tuesday, February 21 in Sister Bay. It will be published in the bulletin.

### **Adult Faith Formation Training**

Sharon shared copies of the Top Ten Practices for Adult Faith Formation. We will discuss Practice Number One at our next meeting. This practice describes the importance of gathering information from those we are trying to reach.

### **Adding Members**

Sharon told the committee that a letter is going out this week and will be followed by a brief plea at weekend Masses for committee help on a few of our leadership committees including Faith Formation. If any current member can reach to someone who may be willing to serve please do so.

**Closing Prayer and Next Meeting:** Sharon asked all to say a special prayer to the Holy Spirit asking for parish unity and additional help with our committees. Our next meeting is scheduled

for February 21 at 2:00PM in Sister Bay. This time is flexible if another time that day is better. Please let Sharon know your availability if this does not work for most we can change to a morning or evening. Thanks.,