



The Church of the Holy Redeemer

We, the diverse faith community of the Church of the Holy Redeemer,
are called to be church through Baptism to continue the mission of Jesus Christ.
With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we gather for word and worship.
We use our gifts to reach out in service to all.

Education Advisory Committee

Monday, October 5, 2009 - 6:00 pm at Roncalli Room, Parish Center Meeting Room

Opening Prayer.

Education Advisory

Members:

Becki Johnson
Cindy Sanders
David Johnson
Kirstie Meyer
Jill Gordon
Gabe Pieper

Staff:

Carol DeSmet
Lori Timmerman
Ryan Langr
Ruth Larson

Review of Minutes: Approved

Approval of Agenda:

Reports:

1. School

- A. **Testing:** Students in grades 2-8 began taking the NWEA tests on September 28th. All testing should be completed by October 9th so I should be able to provide a school report at the next meeting. This year we will also be having students in grades 3, 5, and 8 take a science test.
- B. **Extracurricular:** Volleyball will be done on October 14th. It has worked well to have the sixth grade girls on the team. Knowledge Bowl has started with Kim Louwagie as coach. The first meet will be in Windom on October 19th. I have started recruiting basket ball coaches and determining the schedule for basketball. The directors for the Missoula Children's Theatre will arrive on October 19th. The play this year will be *Robinson Crusoe*.
- C. **Calendar:** Vision and Hearing Screening takes place on October 2nd. Kindergarten travels to the fire station on the 2nd also. Pictures will be taken on October 6th and 7th. The fourth grade will travel to New Ulm for the Holy Childhood Field Trip on the 7th. The 1st Reconciliation Parent meeting will be October 12th. Grade 3 will travel to Schoenstatt for a retreat on the 14th. We will hold Whacky Whipper Day on October 30th.
- D. **School Improvement Plan** was reviewed by the staff and staff members were assigned to the different areas.
- E. The **Enrollment Management** committee will meet on October 7th.
- F. Home and School will be implementing a "Kindness Program" starting October 8th.
- G. The statues that needed repainting have been returned to school and the outside statue of Mary has been cleaned. We appreciate our benefactors who made this project possible.
- H. The **Playground Committee** has met and decided to use the rest of the money to add: benches, garbage receptacle, rebuild the sand boxes and possibly replace the wood that separates the tar from the pea rock.

2. Faith Formation (Elementary)

- A. **Teacher Training** – was held on September 9. It was well attended.
- B. **Opening Mass** – Opening Mass/Parent Meeting was on September 16. Parents were able to take their children to meet their teacher after Mass.
- C. **Roll Sundays** – We did put an announcement in the bulletin looking for adults to help with the baking, setting out rolls and helping in the kitchen. (*Calls will need to be made to get the volunteers.*) We hope to find volunteers for that and then just have the classes come in to set up, serve and clean up. Donut Sundays are planned for October – May. The rolls should be finalized this week.

- D. **Early Catholic Family Life** – Will be meeting for 7 weeks in October through November on Monday evenings. There are 13 or 14 signed up which is the number we were hoping for.
- E. **First Reconciliation Parent Meeting** will be held on October 12. They will make their First Reconciliation on January 9.
- F. We will be having **Virtus** training in November.
- G. **Wreath Sales** will begin on October 7. This is a major fund-raiser for Faith Formation.

3. **Faith Formation (Secondary/Youth)**

- A. **TNT** had its first meeting—approximately 6 youth were in attendance. This week youth will watch a movie, followed by discussion the following week.
- B. I am finding youth to go to the **Senior High Diocesan Youth Rally on October 25**. The theme is Anchor of Hope. I need adult chaperones and drivers. It is in St. Peter.
- C. I have planned a **Bonfire for Oct. 23**. In addition to fun games and songs, youth will engage in a prayer experience following a discussion about the symbolism of fire in our faith.
- D. I am working on planning a mission trip somewhere in the US through an organization called **Youthworks!** I plan on having specific destination ideas within the week.

4. **RCIA**

- A. **RCIA Process:** First class began on September 23rd. We had 13 inquirers however; one now has decided to wait for a year. The group is large and I am looking to divide it in two; one group will be 17 -20 year olds and the other group will be the young couples. We have one Hispanic member who does not understand English. She attended the first session with an interpreter and that did not appear to work. I am working on finding a solution. Each of the inquirers has a sponsor and I have ordered the materials for them to use as a support.
- B. **Confirmation Classes:** At present I have four persons who need the Sacrament of Confirmation; two adults and two younger people. They will go through with the high school class when the Bishop comes for Confirmation on March 7th. Three of the participants have been baptized Catholic and were never confirmed. These candidates will join our group after the Rite of Acceptance is celebrated.
- C. **Hispanic Group preparing for Sacraments:** Have had meetings with our Hispanic Minister and Fr. Paul to address the needs of the thirteen students who will need preparation for the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. The group will be meeting on Wednesday nights at the same time as the faith formation classes. Gustavo and a helper Gloria (a college student) will be working with the group to begin catechesis. The group will be divided into two smaller groups one for students 3-5 and the other group 8th and 9th grades. I made a trip to New Ulm to visit with our Diocesan Director of Faith Formation to review curriculum for older students preparing for the sacraments. He loaned materials to preview.
- D. **Advisory Team:** I have a meeting scheduled for the second week in October. I am looking to expand the committee and form a core team that could become trained by the North American Institute in the diocese next August 6 – 7th. The focus of this institute is addressing the needs of those inquirers who are already baptized.
- E. **Rite of Election:** The Rite of Election is scheduled for the 1st Sunday of Lent this year. It will take place at the cathedral in New Ulm. Those who are already baptized will celebrate the Rite of Continuing Conversion and our one catechumen will celebrate the Rite of Election. The local parish will do the Rite of Sending. It is scheduled for February 21, 2010 at 3:00PM.

Sub-committee:

1. **Home & School:**

- A. Cookie Dough sales were up approximately 200 boxes from last year which would be about \$1200 more than last year.
- B. The Fall Teacher Appreciation Breakfast is currently being worked on.
- C. Krista Verkinderen will chair apparel committee. Thanks to Meg Louwagie who has chaired previous years.
- D. Home & School is starting a program called Kids with Kindness. It is program to affirm the goodness that is in all of us and to congratulate students for making a positive difference in somebody's day.
- E. Homeroom parents and roll Sunday schedules is being completed.

2. **Technology:** No Report. Meeting scheduled for October.

3. **Recruitment:** No Report. Meeting scheduled for October.

4. **RCIA Advisory**: No Report. Meeting scheduled for October.

5. **Youth Advisory**: See Youth Directors report.

Unfinished Business:

1. Early Catholic Family Life program (ECFL):
 - A. MacKenzie Weller and Emily Nuese will be leading the children's activities.
 - B. Jill Gordon will be facilitating the parent discussions.
 - C. 7 families have enrolled with 14 children aged 2 months to 6 years.
 - D. We will need some extra hands, so if anyone is interested in helping out, the program runs for seven Monday evenings (6 to 7:30) beginning October 5 and ending November 16.
2. Donut Sunday. See above report under Faith Formation (elementary).

New Business:

1. November 8 – 125th Anniversary of Parish: Discussion was held as what to expect from the EAC for the open house displays, clarification was given and action will proceed.

Closing Prayer:

Next Meeting: **November 2, 2009**

