



# HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

## EDUCATION/FORMATION COMMISSION

The Holy Family Education/Formation Commission supports all levels of religious education, encouraging all to participate in life-long spiritual formation through community-wide catechesis.

### Meeting Minutes October 11, 2016

#### Opening Prayer & Introductions

Welcome to Mary Elizabeth, new Commission member, ministry leader for Toastmasters.

#### Meeting Objectives:

- Membership progress, barriers and next steps
- Brainstorming Opportunities to increase attendance at Congress next year

#### 1. Minutes/Records

- August

#### 2. Report from Pastoral Council

- All Leadership Meeting, September
- Status of working with Administration Commission. Its remaining member, Karen, will be invited to our November 8 meeting.

#### 3. New Parish News/updates

#### 4. Ministry Updates

- Dawn re outreach efforts. Dawn passed out a matrix summarizing response to her poll for ministry input. Response outside of the ministries directed by Dawn and Frank was limited.
- Spiritual Direction (Mary O'Brien) has asked for support in expanding parish participation in their program. Dawn has offered a follow-up with the post-sacramental RCIA class. We need to generate some other strategies. Comments about the lack of understanding of what Spiritual Direction is (and isn't) and who participates and why. This creates barriers between the program and its directors, and the community of potential participants. Discussed brochure communication tool.

#### 5. Task Plans/Action Items

- I. Conclusion of "Year of Mercy": Discussion. The new theme for our parish will be "Joy," rolled out in November. There is no Vatican theme describes as of yet.
- II. Volunteer Leadership Development: Discussion. Sidebar discussion regarding transformation in our community members, perceived lack of (traditional) commitment (eg can't make 4 meetings a month for RCIA,) lower levels of enrollment and volunteering in youth and young family ministries and activities and the prospective models the church and specifically Holy Family should consider in response. Collaborative learning in online classes were discussed, and blogging support of the Wordpress application used for HF web site. Commission agreed to monitor and revisit this far-ranging discussion on a regular basis. Specifically, can a video library of weekly lessons provide an anchor for distance learning. Observation that Protestant churches use audio-video more progressively

than Catholic communities. The heart of Catholic worship includes the physical presence to participate in the [physical] Eucharist, a fundamental difference from Protestant options.

III. Communicate the community's opportunity for formation and transformation at the Congress, and facilitate attendance: brainstorming session.

Overview comments from board:

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- 1) Why? Formation Tool ++???
- 2) Environment: exciting/faith-filled
- 3) Classes/workshops/sessions  
For ALL types of catechists
- 4) Communicating to HF what, why and who of Congress
  - a. Facebook/website
  - b. Bulletin, emails
  - c. Gathering area/table
  - d. Other??
- 5) Invitation relevant to ministry”

**Other Comments**

Re #1

What are the classes?

Why should a non-catechist go (opportunity to talk to an attendee)

Mary Elizabeth helped the following discussion by serving as a typical target attendee (she's a ministry leader, active in formation, never been to Congress—assumed it was only for religious ed teachers.)

“Don't make [your invitation] feel like it's a commitment, rather an opportunity (e.g. I can talk to someone at a table.)

“Maybe I want a little bit, not all (maybe stream some content as a “taste”)

Some might be more inclined to use website, etc. to enjoy self-direction/anonymity of web access.

Overall, most think this is ONLY for catechists. Need to tell them 1) how does this apply to me?  
2) How can I get more info?

Invitation via bulletin. Chance to speak from the Ambo??

Match curated class lists against ministries' specific interests.

Come in person to a ministry meeting to suggest a class or two

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Faith and Formation Commission 2016-2017

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- 1) Catch and capture interest {?get past the “catechist only” sign}
- 2) Customize available options and resources to our audience (offer what they might like)
- 3) Open up parallel info (offer other things they may like)
- 4) Occurs in late Feb  
*(given how short the time frame is, we may not accomplish “much”—we should “continue on”)*

This Year

Targeted outreach to select ministry and individuals  
Refresh Facebook page (??interest??)

Can we get out to everyone view bulletin, table.

Dynamics of building participating:

How does attendance at HF campus for formation services work?  
Can smaller group activities build to participation in larger events?  
“Let’s go together”

Pitch the HF suite—“lunch, breakfast and a stop-in point.” Saves attendees money and connects with community

Carpool: Some way to “post” “I’m going [date] and [times], can take x# of passengers...”

Child care???

**NEXT STEPS:**

- “Parish highlight” bulletin page—Dawn to check and plant content
- Karla will contact Candy about Facebook page
- Ramon will curate workshop/speaker lists
- Ginny will plan a gathering area event: eye-catching table & approach (Mary Elizabeth offers to make a specific tablecloth, complete with adjustable field for varying dates!)

Next meeting: November 8, 5:00 pm