

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: March 14, 2017

Meeting Objectives: Debrief Congress outreach efforts and results; Identify plan for next year's cycle; Identify objectives and activities for 2017-2018. Discuss the Commission's leadership options for the 2017-2018 year.

Congress Debrief:

About ten new attendees, only two through parish "scholarship." A good start. Individuals and links to ministries within the Parish are not known.

Major Take Aways:

1. We need to integrate Congress outreach and increased attendance goals with Parish leadership and strategic planning goals related to Parish leadership.
 - Increase attendance of Parish staff
 - Increase attendance of ministry leaders
 - Drill-down attendance within ministries through ministry leaders
2. There are other barriers to attendance beyond registration fees: intimidating, transportation, housing, child care.
 - Intimidating: mentors
 - Transportation: online 'matching' of ride sharing, organize sign-ups and rent a van
 - Housing: online 'matching' of shared housing
3. We need to nurture and grow parishioners' formation seeded at Congress throughout the year and leverage that growth to benefit Parish participation, ministries and leadership.
4. Outreach strategies 2016-2017 fostered awareness across all parish members, not only those already participating in parish ministries.
- 5.

Specific Action and Opportunities for Congress (March 13-18, 2018)_Outreach 2017-2018

- Expand Gathering Place Table exposure to entire parish community:
 - two weeks before registration
 - custom poster for those masses attended by parishioners with a particular interest, for example parents of young children at the 9:30 AM mass
- Switch reimbursement offer to first time attendees and clarify the requirement to attend before reimbursement.
- Start outreach earlier, and at the group/ministry level. "What would be useful to your ministry from Congress?" Bring the invitation to individual ministry leaders and ministry participants, using the targeted "teasers" discussed above. Like the Commission members' work in communicating the Year of Mercy message and materials, we inform ministry leaders and 'seed' them up front, encouraging their own personal attendance, and work through them to invite ministry participants.

- Integrate planning and implementation with Religious Education relative to their own responsibilities for Congress planning and organization, and the impact on the parish hospitality suite they operate.
- Rideshare matching/facilitation
- Shared housing
- Mentorship outreach—someone to go with – most won't 'go it alone.'
- Add a focused "teaser" poster to the table and other promotional material that targets specific audiences (young families, mature seekers, teachers, etc.)
- Get a slideshow of HF's participants in 2017 Congress for the 2018 outreach—pics from delegates, interview first time attendees, catechists, veterans, etc.
- "Debrief" Holy Family attendees about their experience at Congress this year—an 'exit' survey online or phone interview

2017-2018 Commission Planning (First Draft Follows)

Next Commission Meetings:

(These are not on the usual "second Tuesday" because of multiple schedule conflicts!)

April 18 (location and time TBD)

May 23 (location and time TBD)