



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 January 10 and 15, 2017

Opening Prayer & Introductions

Meeting Objectives: Debrief the table (Congress outreach in the gathering area Jan. 8) experience, next steps in Congress outreach and for Congress itself, open items for next year's "campaign."

1. **Report from Pastoral Council:** all leadership meeting was held on Jan 10, including a group Lectio Divina lead by Frank Ponnet, and passing out the new "Take 5" outline for focusing on the Lord's presence before setting out on our meetings.
2. **New Parish News/updates**
3. **Ministry Updates**
4. **Task Plans/Action Items**

Debrief on our table in the gathering area (1/8/2017, Sunday AM masses)

Interest was good, action limited. We weren't able to staff the evening masses, which may have been fruitful. Just needed more bodies. Cambria was a help through her announcements at the masses. Focus on very specific information was most productive-tailored to the individual viewer's interest. Graphics were great, minor revisions needed to stress reimbursement based on attendance. The tablecloth with this year's logo was a great tangible statement of commitment.

Observations/planning

E.G. "Parables of Jesus and Disney: Embracing Justice from Dory to Moana" was discussed as a great 'pull out' focus for young families: engaging title which ensured the material isn't intimidating, very specific audience, etc.

Expand that 'teaser' text through exposure on Facebook page (HF Congress and parish,) parish web site, Sunday bulletin, each using the same material, and changing that up each week. Create live links to the archdiocese's Congress material and bios.

Suggestion for a poster that cites and quotes just one or two teasers such as the Dory example, using one specific for the 9:30 Mass and its families, and another for the older audience at 11:15, etc.

Added Input

The Religious Ed ministry is the focused source of Congress attendees, manages hotel reservations and operates the hospitality suite. Commission (via Ginny) lagged in communicating our Congress initiative, and specifically, Cambria's offer of registration fee reimbursement to the "First 100" sign ups. RE was a bit 'blind-sided' when a call came in seeking registration reimbursement the week after our table. (See attached email.)

We have not planned on a process to account for new registrants and their down-stream impact on HF's people and resources, including attendee counts for the hospitality suite's meals, paperwork for registration reimbursement, process to validate attendance.

RE (Colette) points out lots of opportunities: 1) Fellowship building with the new attendees prior to Congress 2) Mentorship in outreach including participation by Cambria to extend her personal invitation 3) Resource planning of the parish's financial incentive for individual attendees might be useful--there are other "cost" barriers for attendance, including housing 4) Expand our approach from this year's individual attendee focus to community building (see ministry level outreach discussions).

Next Steps

- Ginny will follow-up with Karen Whitney on the plan to broadcast invitations and citations of HF's Congress Facebook page, along with a set piece of text on the web site.
- Karla will continue her work to refresh and distribute the HF Congree FB page.
- Ginny will 'close the loop' with Colette and RE on handling this year's registrants and tracking any implications for on site planning.
- Ask Frank Ponnet to ask our parish mission speakers (who are speakers at Congress) to "talk up" the opportunity with attendees and distribute the handouts we used at the table.
- Who is 1) preparing and handling sign-in at the hospitality suite, 2) linking and welcoming new attendees to the hospitality suite, 3) managing exit survey forms?
- Create sign-in for the hospitality suite for new (and any interested veterans) attendees. (see attached.)
- Set up outreach to "our" new attendees: *"Please join us in the HF hospitality suite. Once we know its location, we will text it to you (what's your cell #? _____) There'll be a quick sign-in sheet for you there to provide the documentation needed for your registration reimbursement."* **How do we contact these people in the first place and link them to us for the duration??**
- "Debrief" Holy Family attendees about their experience at Congress this year—an 'exit' survey in the hospitality suite.

2017-2018 (March 13-18, 2018)

- 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.
- 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.

Next meeting: Schedule Feb. 14-needs to be rescheduled around Dawn’s Calendar. Virginia will be absent due to travel. Sunday afternoon? Poll group esp. Ramon.

Attachment: Comments from Colette Villegas/RE Ministry (1/12/2017)

...Just suggestions:

- At the heart of our efforts, communication with the parish congress committee is not only a benefit, but necessary. We missed addressing challenging that go with increased numbers of attendees, e.g., meal count (and budget!) **size** of HF Suite; who does the reg (Rosie referrals??); how do we even have a specific count of “”HF” attendees? And most importantly, the how-to building fellowship with those 1st timers prior to Congress.
- MENTORSHIP - RE pointed out specific opportunities and approaches we can pursue in the next year for targeted outreach, e.g., ...(parent meetings, Young Adult ministry meeting, preschool parents on Sunday just before class. It was also suggested that Cambria help in some of these efforts, e.g. stopping in a formation meeting to extend her personal invitation)
- There are other financial barriers to Congress participation than reg fee, and we should discuss the tradeoffs with needs based budgeting for the additional Congress reg fee reimbursements. Key resources in the HF community have been forced to pay out of pocket or not go, and made difficult, budget driven choices. Can some budget for the Congress outreach be allocated that direction, or is it intended for people who haven’t gone before, or at least not lately?
- Community building is part of the value inherent in this effort, but we have, so far, been more

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- individualized that community-oriented. As we work on reducing other barriers in the coming year, we should use the opportunities with ministry-level outreach to build community through Congress attendance and conversely, to reduce barriers to Congress—many people will “go with” someone who can’t/won’t go it alone.
- Possibility of a "commercial" - short slideshow of HF's participation in Congress 2017. Ask delegates to send pics? Interview, first time delegates, catechists, veterans, etc?