



HOLYFAMILYCHURCH

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 July 6, 2017

Meeting Objectives:

Divine Renovation wrap up and next steps
Web site Text Review

1. ***“Go, make, baptize and teach”***

- Discuss the closing chapters and overall conclusions of Divine Renovation (Mallon) as a part of parish’s 2017-2020 objective:

III. Leadership, Volunteer and Participation Development:

To continue to grow the number of engaged volunteers in the parish, which in turn will increase participation levels and develop new leaders, so that ministries, commissions, and councils are fully viable, and we are able to fulfill the mission of our parish.

Dawn gave a brief recap of trends in Holy Family parish, including

- Mass attendance (per the number of hosts ordered) is down, new to us even if a trend already occurring at other churches.
- Weekly collections are down, although major gifts can still be counted on for special needs, like church repairs.
- Sacramental preparation is NOT down, including baptisms, but this participation is not showing up in continued life with the parish.

Discussed “engagement,” which is used by Mallon and other parishes using Alpha as the measure of success. We need a baseline understanding of where Holy Family is now before we can evaluate the effect of initiatives targeting change in that engagement (see below regarding Alpha.)

Best next step is the Gallup Engagement Survey, estimated cost at \$2 per person, or about \$10,000 for the parish.

2. ***“Alpha:” update from Dawn***

Alpha is a facilitated framework, with a low (\$60) base cost. Proposing to use spiritual direction volunteers as facilitators (need to make contact with that group.) Cited positive results at Encino and other parishes, using “engagement” measures. When required to attend the first three sessions, 80% returned for the rest of the sessions.

Local costs include the dinner (key to the dialogue setting.) Perhaps tie down individual participation by a ‘bring a dessert’ option—balance that with some perceiving this as a barrier. Format is dinner, Alpha video and a facilitated dessert.

Holy Family Roll-out:

- 1) Fall—Pastoral Council, Commissions, ministry heads each required to attend the first three sessions, with the following ones optional. Plan is to run lots of different sessions in different times and settings to meet different needs at different times, mixing participants from different parts of Holy Family leadership.
- 2) January use Alpha as the Parish Mission
- 3) Use Alpha with sacramental audiences

There is an opportunity to use Alpha as part of HF School strategic planning, specifically as part of meeting the initiative “Catholic Identity.”

The Gallup baseline survey, discussed above, will need to be repeated for the parish to evaluate the effect of these and other initiatives.

Dawn is participating in a webinar on Alpha later this month so we’ll have more information then.

3. Website text

Editing issues: give Dawn a marked-up hard copy
Discuss broad conceptual questions

Next Commission Meeting: