

Minutes of the Our Lady of the Pines Faith Formation Meeting: May 24, 2017

1. **Teachers Present:** Fr. Tony Fernando, Rebecca Scaper, Gina Rypkema, Kari Lindow, Kevin Lindow, Jen McNamee, Angie Lindow, Holly Funk, Ronda DeWulf, Wendy McIlvary Bjorklund and Mary Schiebe. Mary Schiebe led the opening prayer.
2. **Evaluation of Children's Liturgy of The Word:** It is going well. They added coloring pages for the younger children to do. We need more volunteers to help run the programs on Sunday mornings.
3. **Evaluation of "School Release Time Program" for Grades 1 – 6:** The teachers like the program but would like to do videos few more times. There was a suggestion to have more technology (computers) available in the classroom and incorporate more scriptures and other activities in like class projects.
4. **Evaluation of First Reconciliation and Holy Communion Program:**
The First Communion Teacher shared that the program went very well. She liked the curriculum for First Reconciliation. She suggested that we make it more clear to the parents that they are invited to make their confessions at the time of the students' First Reconciliation. The celebration of First Communion went well.
5. **Reviewing Confirmation Program:** There was a suggestion to serve the meal at 6 p.m. instead of 5:30. Another parent suggested to have confirmation at an older age.
6. **Confirmation and Pre-Confirmation Class.** It was good to have the 7th grade students separated from the older confirmation students. Several of the group want to see more continuity of teachers in the class i.e. same adults available in the classes every week so the students can identify with them and have small group discussions with the same adults more regularly. Perhaps having a core group of adults involved. There was another suggestion to invite speakers recommended by Diocese for special topics. The videos produced by Dynamic Catholic were discussed and will be reviewed by some of the teachers as possible supplement to class content. Fr. Tony reminded us that we need to follow Diocesan guidelines regarding class content.
7. **Going Beyond Faith Formation to Evangelization: Our parish will subscribe to an online program called FORMED.** It is a program on Demand where many Catholic videos and books by well known Catholic authors are made available to all parishioners even outside class room set up. Faith Formation Teachers and Adult Faith Sharing Groups will also benefit from it. We are currently doing a 6 week program doing the first 6 chapters of the book Resisting Happiness by Mathew Kelly at Our Lady of The Pines and St. Theodore's.
8. **Others:**
 - 8.1 Mary Schiebe will be available to the Faith Formation teachers during release time and evening confirmation classes. She will be gone the month of November and January 15 – March 15. Jen McNamee will cover for her during the month of November.
 - 8.2 Vacation Bible School. Rebecca will work on putting together a committee for VBS.
 - 8.3 Fr. Tony reminded us that the certification window for renewing our Safe Environment Certification is from July to September. Be sure to do it and encourage others to do it too. Anyone that is with our children for any programs must have Safe Environment Certificate.
 - 8.4 Commissioning of FF Teachers will be done at the weekend Masses of **Sept. 16 & 17.**
 - 8.5 Confirmation and Pre-Confirmation Classes Begins: **September 27 at 6:30 P.M.** A week earlier to do Safe Environment Class.
 - 8.6 Release Time Students Classes Begins: **October 4 at 12 Noon.**
9. **Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be **September 20, 2017 6:30 P.M.** in Our Lady of the Pines Community Room.

Recorded by
Mary Schiebe