

## Family and Youth Initiatives Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2024

Committee Members Present: Kari Mathys, Jenny VandenLangenberg, Mitch Peterson, Liz Rehberg, Tara O'Donohue. Also present : Red Sember, Tammy Malach

### 1. Member updates

Amy Rouleau has decided to step down from our committee but will be available to help out with our events if needed. Thank you to Amy for her years of dedication to the youth and families of our parish. Welcome to Tammy Malach who is interested in joining our committee!

### 2. Religious Ed updates

Theresa and Neil will provide their reports/updates in advance of the meeting. They will let us know if there is anything we need to assist them with. Moving forward it will be optional for both of them to be in attendance at our meetings. We need to keep the lines of communication open, but the FYI committee meetings will be more of a focus on planning for the committee's events and initiatives.

### 3. FYI Committee Events & Initiatives for 2024

- While we are under construction, we are evaluating our events, new ideas & initiatives, and will try to plan ahead with family focused activities.

- Childcare Ministry Update- Tara updated the committee. We discussed starting small with the number of times the Ministry will offer childcare. We need 2 adults who are Virtus trained at each childcare event. Neil could help get adults and young adult babysitters approved for childcare. We agreed we will offer childcare for a couple events this year as we get started. The two events would be the Women's Lenten Retreat and Advent by Candlelight. We think high school age kids are the appropriate minimum age for babysitting helpers. Tara will continue to work on forming the Childcare Ministry guidelines.

- Photo Backdrop - Red will work on a design and provide a few options for us to make the final decision in the next couple months. The price range for the back drop will be in the \$300-500 range and the cost will be covered by our committee budget. We'd like to have the backdrop by June 1st.

- Blessing Bags: Red brought up the idea about providing a 'Blessing Bag' for the young kids at our parish to borrow when they attend Mass or come during the week with their parents. The bag would include religious activities, coloring pages, small toys, pictures, etc. Someone would have to organize the bags, clean them after use and have them ready to go for Masses again. We could get this started in the next couple months. Our committee could make the bags, and maybe the Wednesday morning breakfast attendees can disinfect and organize them each week. Jenny will propose this to the Parish Council for approval.
- Camp Tekakwitha - We discussed in the past about providing a scholarship for any parish kids interested in going to camp. We have budgeted \$500 for this. We can advertise to parish families and see how many are interested in attending a session of

Camp this summer. The application process would be simple for now and the \$500 would be split evenly among the applicants. Mitch and Red look into details for summer camps and will help get this off the ground.

- Fan the Flame Ministry is still something we'd like to see the parish get up and going. The hope is to stay connected by sending cards, information, and inspirational texts (through Flocknote) to young adults who have aged out of our Religious Ed Program. The details of this ministry are still not determined but the FYI committee feels that it should fall into the position of the Young Adult Minister and the Young Adult Committee as they move forward in planning to bolster that committee and the young adult engagement.

**Next Meeting:** February 29, 2024 - Time TBD - 5:00 or 6:00? We will focus on determining the calendar of events we would like to hold in 2024.