

Saint John the Baptist

Discipleship and Mission Commission

Minutes

Date:	September 21, 2021	Chair	Melanie Dowell	Staff Liaison	Jessica Balzarini
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Next Meeting: **October 19, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.**

Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present
Melanie Dowell (<i>Chair/PLC REP</i>)	X	Wendy Stepanchak	
Jessica Balzarini	X	Neil Steffl	X
Emily Carlberg	X	Karl Zabinski	X
Erin Hardy	X	Jodie Wolla (<i>recorder</i>)	X
Jean Koslowski	X	Guest: George Awad	
		Guest: Steven Broszko	X

- I. Opening Prayer – Jessica
- II. Mission Statements (Recite Aloud)

- I. Topics for Discussion
 - A. Welcome and Introduce visitors – warm welcome to Steven Broszko who is checking out D&M commission tonight.
 - B. Time to discuss Fr. Paul’s opening remarks:
 - Feedback included: we can really embrace the vision for this year, it is so versatile, grateful for Fr. Paul, we are here to serve.
 - Excellent overview of commissions and the structure. We appreciated the focused questions posed to each commission.

- I. Ongoing Monthly Agenda Items
 - A. Update from previous month’s PLC – N/A
 - B. Written Reports – reviewed
 - C. Live Report – Jessica
 1. The Synod – good discussion and many questions answered.

- II. New Business
 - A. Set Goals based on the theme for this year
 1. Restored to Life: Restored to Joy, Restored to Oneness, Restored to Ministry, Restored to Campus
 - a) D&M goals will focus on fostering family connectedness.
 2. Goals will be tracked on overall goal sheet
 - a) Outreach to Families not registered
 - a. Evaluation of parish database is underway for children/youth not registered for anything. What is that total number?
 - b. Scripting for invitations back to programming and the parish
 - c. The process and expediting is in the works now.
 - b) Bags to new home buys | Welcome to New Brighton and SJBC
 - a. Who should receive these bags, newly sold homes, parishioners with new neighbors, etc.
 - c) Monthly postcards
 - a. Birthday cards to kids registered or not
 - b. Assistance from commission members and others to put stamps on etc.
 - d) We Miss You Ministry – continue the positive work started in COVID
 - a. Target groups: Youth, Elderly, pre-school families, Baptism families, widow/widowers
 - b. Target groups invited to hospitality. One example: We welcome all those who celebrated a Baptism in the last year to hospitality after 10:30 mass.
 - c. Calls, post cards, cards....
 - d. Potentially join with another commission to carry this out.

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- III. Volunteer needs specific for Commission members
- A. **Host Hospitality Weekend – Date chosen is December 19th, 2021**
 - B. **All Saints Party – October 27**
 - C. **Journey to the Inn – January 8**
 - D. **Egg Hunt – April 16**
- IV. Review of Events
- A. Past Events for Review and Feedback
 - 1. Summer Events:
 - a) Lectio on the Lawn
 - b) Summer Revivals
 - c) Sunday Fundays
 - d) Totus Tuus/VBS
 - e) Extreme Faith Camp
 - f) Summer Youth Group and Events
 - B. Fall Events
 - 1. September
 - 2. 9/16 ODM fundraiser, Butter Braid Sales Started
 - 3. 9/18 Net team welcome bonfire
 - 4. 9/18-9/19 Blessing of Catechists and Families
 - 5. 9/19 – ODM Evening of Reflection
 - C. Upcoming Calendar of Events and Volunteers Needs:
 - 1. 9/22 Youth Group Begins
 - 2. 9/22 Devoted
 - 3. 9/24-9/26 Fall Fest
 - 4. First week of October Start For
 - a) Synod groups start
 - b) Sunday School
 - c) Confirmation Prep
 - d) Family Formation
- V. Old Business – NA
- VI. Ending Prayer/Adjourn: 8:00 p.m. *Karl will open in Prayer next time.*
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Written Report – Jill Fink, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship

Becoming Catholic RCIA: Working with individuals who are expressing interest. We have 2 people signed up. We may need to move the sessions off Monday night to accommodate schedules.

Synod: Advertising push the weekend of September 18-19 with Ambassadors available after all Masses. Encouragement for all adults to participate as this is the only adult ministry available this fall and upon request by the Archbishop. Many dates/times are available. Open sessions are Thursdays at 9:30-11:30am and 6:30-8:30pm. Childcare is available upon request. Three other existing Reach More groups are taking registrations to join them at various times: Monday evening, Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday evening. Registration is on the Synod page at St. John's website. A QR code is made for easy access. Facilitators and Scribes are needed for each session. We need 1 per table of 8. Zoom training is available through the Archdiocese or Jill will give orientation. The sessions begin the week of October 4-8 and conclude 6 weeks later in November 8-12. We will be discussing the 3 focus areas which has subpoints making 6 sessions.

Baptism: Baptism Prep Class Couples met with Jill for a social and check in on schedule and script. A few adaptations will be made including pictures of baptism celebration from St. John's to help visualize. Numbers continue to be large with 7 couples at

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the last class. Three school families have older children and will be working with Jill toward a projected December baptism celebration.

RCIC: We have 1 family signed up currently. Sunday classes are set to begin with Sr. Ruth on October 3 at 9:30am with families attending Mass together at 10:30am.

Marriage Ministry: New couples to invite into the ministry has been created. A look at the current program and evaluating other options is in the works with a January date toward implementation and invitation.

Events: Cana Dinner is being planned.

Written Report – Michael Lane

Baptisms: 3 in August and 3 coming up on September 19th

Weddings: 2 in August and 1 September

Written Report – Mikayla Anderson, Coordinator for Discipleship for Youth

NET Team – Our NET team arrived on Friday, and we had our Bonfire welcoming them on Saturday. It is so awesome to have them back. This is our last year of having the NET team, so we are really working getting volunteers to continue our ministry for years to come at the same compacity.

Confirmation - Currently we have 31 students registered for Confirmation. We start with our parent and student orientation on October 3rd and will start small groups after that! We are still looking for confirmation leaders – so please pray for some more confirmation small group leaders.

Family Formation - We had a great parent meeting last Wednesday night with several new Family Formation families. This year, we are not doing home lessons for those in 7th & 8th Grade, but rather we are having those students come to Middle School Youth Group and Extreme Faith Night. As of last Thursday, we had a total of 15 students registered from 7th & 8th Grade.

Youth Group – We are starting youth group tomorrow for both middle school and high school, so please pray for a smooth and impactful night! Tomorrow we are talking about sainthood and re-committing ourselves to sainthood this year. This is will also be our introduction of the NET team and a night of community for the beginning of the school year.

Written Report – Jen Livermont, Coordinator for Discipleship for Families

Faith Formation: started Wednesday night with Parent Orientation. Our first Catechist Training is Wednesday, September 22nd and our first Family Formation with the kids is October 6th. We currently have 88 children registered with 44 families compared to 72 kids with 41 families by the end of the program last year. We still have several families that should be registered who aren't yet so hopefully that number will increase. We have all our catechist spots filled. We are still looking for host families to help dish up food, substitute teachers and hall monitors.

Sunday School: Parent Orientation is Sunday, September 19th after the 9:30 and 11:30 after the Masses. Our first day is October 6th. We currently have 19 kids in 18 families compared to 15 kids in 13 families at the end of last year. Last year we only had a 10:30 class because we only had one child register for the 8:30 class. This year we already have kids for both the 8:30 and 10:30 classes. We have a good crew of teachers and helpers ready. We may need more if our numbers drastically increase.

First Sacraments: has their Parent Orientation on Tuesday, October 12th. We currently have 29 kids registered this year as compared to 34 kids last year.

Childcare: has started up for Family Formation, Circle of Women and we are offering childcare for several synod sessions.

Events: We are also gearing up for the All-Saint's Party on Wednesday, October 27th at 6:00pm.