

Saint John the Baptist
Discipleship and Mission Commission
Minutes

Date:	February 15 th 2022	Chair	Melanie Dowell	Staff Liaison	Jessica Balzarini
--------------	--------------------------------	--------------	----------------	----------------------	-------------------

Next Meeting: **March 22nd at 5:30 p.m.**

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

- I. Opening Prayer – Melanie

- II. Mission Statements – Read aloud

- I. Monthly Agenda Items
 - A. Welcome and introduce any visitors –none

 - B. Time to discuss Fr. Jaspers opening remarks/answer questions
 - 1. Discussion included: Fr. Jaspers had an amazing talk, discussion around the rosary and Mary was awesome, really enjoyed the table discussions as it was so good to hear different perspectives, a feeling of renewal and re-energized to make the rosary a priority again.

 - C. Update from previous month’s PLC – no questions

 - D. Review of Written Reports – no questions

 - E. Live Report – n/a

- I. New Business
 - A. Updates on Youth Ministry Plan – work is still progressing. Mikayla is working hard on making personal asks for volunteers to help and lead YM when the Net team leaves.
 - 1. Review SMART Goals and timelines – Assuming we will not be getting another NET teams as we have not heard anything back regarding next year’s potential. Jessica stated we are moving forward with a second youth minister position which will be dedicated to middle school both in the school and parish side.
 - 2. Review and edit job descriptions – no updated discussed
 - 3. Review and edit recommendation for structure and positions both volunteer and paid - tabled
 - B. Review New Member Welcome
 - 1. Review current process
 - 2. Commission members assigned parishes to contact to ask about their welcome process
 - 1. Each member was given parishes to contact and inquire on their new parishioner welcome process. Discuss:
 - a. St. Ambrose in Woodbury – Melanie
 - b. Church of Saint Paul in Ham Lake -Erin
 - c. St. Patrick’s Oak Grove - Jean
 - d. St. Vincent De Paul Brooklyn Park - Mike
 - e. All Saints Lakeville - Karl
 - f. St. John the Baptist Savage - Neil

Saint John the Baptist

Discipleship and Mission Commission

Minutes

- g. Cathedral of St. Paul - Steven
 - h. Transfiguration Oakdale -Emily
 - i. St. Peter's Forest Lake - Jackie
 - j. St Nicolas New Market - Karl
 - k. Maternity of Mary - Melanie
 - l. St. Mark in St. Paul - Emily
 - m. St. Peter Mendota - Erin
 - n. Our Lady of Grace Edina - Steven
 - o. Holy Name of Jesus Wayzata - Jean
 - p. St. Hubert's Chanhassen- Jackie
 - q. St. Joseph in Waconia - Neil
 - r. St. Michael in St. Michael - Mike
 - s. St. Francis Xavier Buffalo - Jackie
2. Inquiry questions included:
- a. What does your new member form and packet of information look like?
 - b. How do they orientate new parishioners to their mission/culture/parish life and activities? How do they engage new people?
 - c. Is the website easy to get information, is it welcoming, can you find what you need?
 - d. Other:
3. Feedback - Each D&M member presented their feedback and information was gathered. Members highlighted the best of the new member workflows from what they gathered. We began gathering details and will continue the process at the March meeting and make recommendations to improve or enhance our process.
4. Upcoming assignment March/April: write first draft of text for presentation,
- a. History
 - b. Description of who we are
 - c. What we offer at the parish
 - d. Best ways to get involved
- C. Review Commission and Ministry List -tabled
- 1. Make recommended changes to PLC
- D. Ongoing: Review Goals for Goal Sheet and Create SMART goals for each
- 1. Fr. Paul's goal for us: To review the feedback forms from the Synod and make recommendations to the parish. (Not able to do yet as we do not have data from the diocese) - tabled
 - 2. Fostering Connectedness - tabled
 - 1. Pursue Hospitality as a means for groups/demographics can get together to meet and get to know each other.
 - 2. Connecting with families not enrolled in our school for parish programming
 - a. Via postcard
 - b. Follow up phone call
 - 3. Connect with all children registered in the parish with Birthday postcard
 - 4. Connect with your new neighbors with a Welcome to the neighborhood gift bag from SJB
 - 3. Review New Member Orientation Process – information gathering is in progress.

Saint John the Baptist
Discipleship and Mission Commission

Minutes

1. Evaluate current process
 2. Create a new follow up to the process
 4. Review and Organize Ministries to Core Values
- II. **Upcoming Events & Volunteer** needs specific for Commission members
- A. Confirmation Retreat – Feb 25-27
 - B. Ash Wednesday – March 2
 - C. Stations of Cross – March 4
 - D. Lent 2021 Encounter Small Groups begin
 - E. Youth 365/summer events kick off weekend in plaza March 5- 6
 - F. Lenten Family Adoration- March 6th from 4-5pm
 - G. Egg Hunt – April 16 – Core Team & Volunteers Needed**
- III. Review of Events
- A. Past Events for Review and Feedback
 1. 1st REC Retreat & Reconciliation
 2. Cana Dinner -excellent feedback on the event which included: appreciation for the seating arrangements (seating with like couples), overall, very nice experience. New connections were made which was great.
- IV. Ending Prayer/Adjourn: 8:25 p.m.

Saint John the Baptist
Discipleship and Mission Commission
Minutes

Written Report – Jen Livermont, Coordinator for Discipleship for Families

Sunday Nursery - Sunday nursery will be available every Sunday in February.

Sunday School – We are working through the Ordinary Time Gospels right now. Some highlights are learning about St. John Bosco and getting the opportunity to try juggling because that was something he used to engage kids. We are also learning about St. Valentine to show how secular holidays began with saints and church holy days.

Family Formation – We were back onsite for February and Stephanie Waite made the dinner. We had a Candlemas prayer service where we read the story of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple and all the families received a candle that was blessed at the Candlemas earlier that evening. We also incorporated the St. Blaise blessing of the throats into the prayer experience and several people commented that they had never been able to attend that before and they appreciated it. In March we be bringing each class to Reconciliation after the talk.

Childcare – We are currently providing childcare for Baptism Prep class, a Reach More small group, Family Formation, First Sacraments, RCIA and Circle of Women. We have a new volunteer childcare person to cover the Reach More small group.

First Sacraments – This has been a very busy month in the world of First Sacraments! We had our First Reconciliation Retreat on January 23rd from 2-5pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was January 29th at 9:00am. Out of 62 students we have 5 remaining students who need to make up their First Reconciliation. We had a lot of students out due to Covid (they were sick, family was sick or the were quarantining).

The First Communion Kick-Off was Sunday, February 6th from 2-3:30pm. We had a short talk by Fr. Paul, Adoration, then parents and kids split. The parents heard a talk by Jill and the kids did a church scavenger hunt and played First Communion bingo.

Lent – Lenten books have been ordered for Sunday School, Family Formation and additional to set out for school students. I am also planning a Lenten Adoration for Sunday, March 6th from 4-5pm. The current plan is to walk the stations with Jesus in the monstrance leading the way. We will end with adoration.

Summer - VBS dates are June 14-16 from 9-12. Totus Tuus dates are Sunday, July 31 – Thursday, August 4th for 7-12th and Monday, August 1 - Friday, August 5th for 1-6th grades. Registration will go out in March. SJBC children will have priority registering before outside parishes children given the programs were full last couple years.

We are also beginning to plan Sunday Fundays and Revival events as well.

Written Report – Mikayla Anderson, Coordinator for Discipleship for Youth

HSYG – Our high school youth group is doing great – talking about hot topics, such as pro-life and gender/sexuality. We have also had men/women sessions and our kids always love when we have extended times of worship. We are about to go into a new series, recommitting ourselves to prayer and relationship with Jesus through going through Fan into Flame (an SPO retreat) in 5 different youth groups.

Saint John the Baptist
Discipleship and Mission Commission

Minutes

MSYG – many new people! And they are mostly not from SJB School – they are from Family Formation or other parishes (new students that we have met). We have been talking about who is Jesus and What is his purpose?

Our Bowlero day was awesome, having about 35 youth come having a ton of fun and community together!

Confirmation – We have our confirmation retreat coming up February 25-27th. Please pray for our students!

Young Adults – we are planning a young adult weekend away to help them form community with one another and then being able to invite them into mission more. I have also been meeting with many young adults to invite them into mission more!

Camp – currently have just under 100 campers of which 22 high school leaders. Hopefully we will fill 100+! We are also working on getting adults to come (I have a good list going of who is interested and who to ask!)

Written Report – Jill Fink, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship

Becoming Catholic RCIA: Both classes continue to meet. Discernment time for candidates as we head into Lent – Time of Purification and Enlightenment. Rite of Sending and Rite of Election is Sunday, March 6 at 10:30am Mass and 1:30pm at the Basilica.

Synod: We are in the Parish Synod Leadership Team Consultation area (this is a change from the Deanery Consultation which was dismissed due to pandemic concerns). Our 10 PSLT representatives are currently signing up for an Orientation Training and then will be given Theological Papers to consult before gathering with Fr. Jaspers and Process Manager Jill Fink at St. John's on Saturday, March 5 from 9:30-2pm in 206. At this gathering the team will consider 1 topic from each Focus Area chosen by the Pastor. These 3 areas will be discussed in several ways: What is the Holy Spirit calling us to prioritize? How might the specific wording of the propositions be improved? How might one of the propositions be brought to life in your parish? At present there are 50+ draft synod propositions which will be looked at before the next step which is the Synod Assembly with 2 representatives from St. Johns on June 3-5. These 2 representatives have not been chosen at present.

Baptism: Jill is working with 2 more preschool families toward baptism in the spring.

RCIC: The 4 families continue to meet with Sr. Ruth on Sunday morning for their catechesis and attend Mass together. Jill will be working with two other families with middle school youth toward the sacraments.

Saint John the Baptist
Discipleship and Mission Commission
Minutes

Marriage Ministry: Cana Dinner will be Saturday, February 12 in St. Joseph's Hall. Our title is: Marriage: The Good Soil He's Planted You In: *Trusting God through the many seasons of marriage*. Our speakers are Mark and Julie Rose who serve as ministry consultants for the Evangelical Catholic (EC). 50 couples are signed up. Several new faces and a younger crowd. An invitation from Fr. Paul will be sent to couples to discern the ministry of marriage mentor. New formation programs are being evaluated and Witness to Love will be piloted this month by a few RCIA participants. We are currently working with 16 couples toward Marriage this coming summer/fall.

Adult Lifelong Learning Studies: Sr. Clarinda continues a 7-week study on **Angels** on Wednesday morning. **The Eucharist in Scripture** by Scott Hahn led by David Tucci and other Men's Fellowship on Saturday morning for 3 weeks concluded with 12 people enrolled. Jill Fink will be leading **Presence Study** on five Thursday evenings from 6:30-8pm. We have 20 people gathering. Reach More small group ministry will be launched in lent headed by Jessica Balzarini. Defeating Spiritual Discouragement is Tuesday, February 22 at 7pm in St. Joseph Hall led by new parishioner and spiritual director Megan Kruse. Free event.

Family Formation Parent Program: Speaker for February was Deacon Gary Schneider with the title: On This Rock I Will Build My Church. Speaker for March is Fr. Andrew Jaspers on the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the title: The Clean Sweep

First Sacraments: Parents finished the Home Lessons for First Reconciliation and received orientation for Home Lessons for First Communion. Jill will present to grade 2 students in school the Cenacle presentation.

Written Report – Michael Lane

Baptisms: 2 scheduled for January.

Weddings: No weddings scheduled.

Written Report – Jessica Balzarini

Reach More Our Reach More movement of evangelization is gearing up for 2 areas of ministry right now: another Training Group small group and Lent Small Groups. The Reach More Training Group material gives disciples of Jesus Christ an opportunity to follow Jesus, providing excellent spiritual formation and practical training more deeply in relational evangelization (loving others and sharing Jesus with them through authentic friendships). This formation and training equip them to impact the world influencing their small circle of influence.

Saint John the Baptist
Discipleship and Mission Commission
Minutes

The Lent Season of Small Group will have 19 Small Groups meeting on a variety of days and times. We have 7 new leaders who will be starting an evangelizing small group for the first time, pray for them. Our current leaders will be continuing with their existing groups and adding new people as they have the capacity. Everyone looks forward to connecting more with Sunday readings and one another as they discuss faith and life, reflect on God's word, apply the readings to daily life, seek God together, and pray with and for one another.

devoted devoted's 2022 season is coming together nicely. The speakers will keep to our parish theme, Restored to Life. We will continue to offer "extra" social time at 7:30 pm and begin with our opening remarks at 8 pm.

Mary Clare Stroh Molero will be with us for her talk, "Making Your Requests Known to God: A Story of Restoration & Trust". Do you really have to tell Him what you need when He knows our thoughts before we think them? Didn't He Design the deepest desires of our hearts? How much more obvious can we make these darn thorns in our sides before we start to lose our minds?!

As a young mother of four under the age of three, Mary Clare Stroh will share her recent experiences in spiritual vulnerability and child-like faith when it comes to God the Father's provision in her life. Join us for a time of storytelling through both spoken word and music, camaraderie with fellow women and a time of self-examination in prayer.