

Saint John the Baptist
Discipleship and Mission Commission

Minutes

Date:	March 22, 2022	Chair	Melanie Dowell	Staff Liaison	Jessica Balzarini
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Next Meeting: **April 19th at 5:30 p.m.**

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

- I. Opening Prayer – Melanie
- II. Mission Statements (Recite Aloud)
- I. Monthly Agenda Items
 - A. Welcome and introduce any visitors – from PLC, Fr. Doug Ebert.
 - B. Time to discuss Fr. Ebert’s opening remarks/answer questions – No questions.
 - C. Update from previous month’s PLC – No questions.
 - D. Review of Written Reports – No Questions.
 - E. Live Report – Jill Fink, Coordinator of Discipleship for Adults
 - 1. Jill presented the proposed changes to the materials used in marriage preparation process.
 - 2. “Witness to Love” resources which includes would replace the current material “Enrich and Prepare”. The other components in the process would remain the same.
 - 3. We currently have 12 mentor couples. Mentor couples are a valuable part of this process. We have invites out to obtain more mentor couples.
 - 4. We are also looking at whether engaged couples should choose their own mentor couples from the list or continue to be assigned their mentor couple.
 - 5. Questions included:
 - a. Where do mentors & couples meet? A. We suggest at the church, because this is where we are welcoming the new couple into parish life, or it could be in mentor couple’s home.
 - b. This new change seems more intensive on the mentor couples. A. mentor couples are well trained. The priests do the heavy lifting on suggestion of retreats and relationship work.
 - c. How many marriage preps leave SJBC for another parish, do we have data on this? A. At SJBC, we currently do more preps than marriages. We can try to find numbers on this.
 - d. Feedback included: This seems like a great change to program. The app would be great. New material seemed updated and engaging. Overall positive feedback on changes.
- I. New Business
 - A. Updates on Youth Ministry Plan - tabled
 - 1. Review SMART Goals and timelines- Updates
 - 2. Review and edit job descriptions
 - 3. Review and edit recommendation for structure and positions both volunteer and paid
 - B. Review New Member Welcome
 - 1. Review current process - Jessica
 - 2. Commission members assigned parishes to contact to ask about their welcome process
 - 1. Members put the feedback from outside parishes on post-it notes, next members separated the feedback into three categories:
 - a. Pre-Planning for New Member

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- i. Feedback included: online forms which prompted staff to send a welcome letter and a welcome gift box, paper registration process, form into a google sheet, personal invite &/or welcome letter , registration online or paper and a welcome email from Priest inviting to refreshments or lunch etc., a new member webpage with information and online registration, new member registration after masses, booklet including information about church & programs, volunteering and a gift such as a mug etc. given out, register online via website then personal call from staff i.e. an intake, be sure to ask if they are new to Catholicism, transferring parishes or returning to church, may be beneficial to ask how involved would they like to be or undecided.
 - b. Orientation for New Members
 - i. Feedback included: creating a welcome team, hosting a new member brunch/lunch/some kind of meet & greet after mass quarterly or every six months to bring new members together and include a couple of ministries, the pre-school & school, priest. Next create a very good packet or book with information for new members.
 - c. SJBC New Member Packets Reviewed
 - i. Feedback included:
 - 1. Watchmen needs a new brochure – this has been updated since the meeting
 - 2. Really like the magnets
 - d. Jessica handed out questions to complete prior to the next meeting and bring thoughts back for discussion
 - e. Follow-up on New Members
 - i. Feedback included: use the “my parish app
 - ii. Questions asked by commission members:
 - 1. How many attend mass at SJBC who are not registered? Can we get any data on this?
 - 2. Why are parishioners attending mass at SJBC, yet not joining?
 - 3. How long did you attend mass at SJBC before your joined?
- 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)
 - 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 and Organize Ministries to Core Values -tabled
- II. **Upcoming Events & Volunteer** needs specific for Commission members
 - A. Lent 2021 Encounter Small Groups begin

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- B. Egg Hunt – April 16 – *Volunteers Needed, those already committed to help, names have been given to Jen Livermont***
- C. Youth Ministry Appreciation Dinner –Friday April 22, 2022 – Volunteers for set-up earlier in day

III. Review of Events

A. Past Events for Review and Feedback

- 1. 1st REC Retreat & Reconciliation – no feedback, no commission members attended or heard feedback.
- 2. Cana Dinner
 - 1. 60% new and younger attendees this year.
 - 2. Two tables considering joining SJBC parish.
 - 3. The succulent gift was amazing and appreciated, the food was great.
 - 4. Would like to the speaker recorded going forward.
 - 5. Would like to create a core team to plan 3-4 marriage events throughout the year, Cana would be one of those events.
 - a. The needs identified included:
 - i. Events tailored to 1. Empty nesters 2. Couples married for years 3. Couples married not too many years (with childcare) 4. Event focused on Virtues 5. Fun events for all married & engaged couples are some ideas commission members would like to see in the future.
 - ii. Consideration for time of year, days of week, time of the day
 - iii. Type of events to offer
 - 1. Retreats both full day and half day for couples and families
 - 2. Speaker events
 - 3. Dinners
 - 4. Events
 - a. One example provided: A family retreat all day or overnight or a weekend at a camp like boy scout camp or ELC etc., with a kids, teen and adult programming happening simultaneously include fun speakers, bonfire, priests. Include childcare.
 - b. Some members thought they could get information on other parishes that offer this. They will forward to Jessica.
- 3. Family Adoration
 - 1. feedback included: it was confusing on what we were supposed to do during adoration, was hard to follow, need more information in future, and explain the event in detail ahead of time so parishioners know what to expect.
- 4. Y365 fundraiser
 - 1. Commission members asked:
 - a. Can we get an update on how this fundraising is going this year and how are we overall?
 - b. How is Y365 advertised, weeks, continual advertising is recommended in Fr.'s email, website, and bulletin so people can continually give to the fund, verbal announcements from Youth Minister would be nice.

IV. Ending Prayer/Adjourn

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Written Report – Jen Livermont, Coordinator for Discipleship for Families

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

Sunday School – In Lent we are breaking down the story of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus beginning with Palm Sunday. Last week we learned about St. Patrick and how he used the shamrock to teach the people of Ireland about the Trinity. We will be off Sunday, March 13th for Spring Break. For Palm Sunday, the Sunday School students will meet in the back of the church and participate in the palm procession. The teachers will take the kids back to the room for the remainder of Mass. The “palm parade” is a favorite activity of Sunday schoolers and they have already brought it up!

Family Formation – We were onsite for March and Stephanie Waite made the dinner. We had a last-minute scheduling issue, so the parents heard the talk by Fr. Jaspers in the chapel after dinner and the students met in St. Joe’s Hall for their classroom time. The first graders did a tour of the confessional and learned about going to confession. The second graders started with an examination of conscience and then went to confession. Many children had not been to confession since their first confession, so it was a very powerful experience for them. Seventy-five percent of our families attended this month. A few families picked up their packets early because they were leaving early for spring break.

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. Michelle Molenaar is healing and will be returning to the roster in April.

First Sacraments – We have had several makeup sessions for children who were not able to be at the scheduled First Reconciliation. We had several kids after the scheduled Reconciliation and just had two children receive their first Reconciliation on March 9th when Family Formation had confession. Now we are all caught up! The First Communion Retreat is scheduled for Sunday, April 3rd from 2-5pm.

Lent – We will be participating in Families Helping Families, sponsored by PTO, on Thursday, March 31. Sunday School will provide paper, markers, and stencils for families to decorate placemats for the nursing home across the street. Families in our programs will be asked to bring in supplies for birthday bags to donate to the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf. Families will also be encouraged to come to the event and help participate in all the service projects.

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. Registrations are out and we are almost full for Totus Tuus. As of writing this, each age group has single digits spots left.

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

Sunday Fundays:

Pentecost Sunday Funday: June 5th, Pancake Breakfast, service projects, play games and pray the Rosary

Meet the Tutus Tuus Sunday Funday: July 31st, games and pray the Rosary

Backpack Blessing Sunday Funday: August 21st, keychain giveaway, games and pray the Rosary

Revivals:

June 25th - Feast of St. John the Baptist Revival – Mass, Dinner, and DJ

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July 27th – Feed My Starving Children Revival

August 21st – Rosary and Bonfire Revival

Written Report – Mikayla Anderson, Coordinator for Discipleship for Youth

March Report:

HSYG – In HSYG, we have been doing Fan Into Flame, which is an SPO retreat, and we broke it up into 5 sessions. It's been great to have different speakers and get our volunteers more involved! We also have the Intercessory Prayer Group coming in to pray over our students for a deeper release of the Holy Spirit on March 23rd. We will also have a night of silent adoration on April 6th to prepare ourselves for Holy Week. We are also doing our Good Friday Retreat encouraging our students to enter the Passion and attending all the services.

MSYG – MSYG is still going well! We have Extreme Faith Night coming up on March 25th, where we will talk about hearing God's voice, just as Mary heard in the Annunciation. We have then 2 MSYG for the year. April 20th and April 29th.

Confirmation – the Sacrament of Confirmation is fast approaching on May 7th! We just had our retreat at the end of February and only have 4 confirmation Sunday's left! In terms of next year, we will be moving our confirmation retreat to November, hoping that we get the encounter earlier in the year, and then we are able to join other parishes who have Winter Faith Camp, which is a retreat for all high school students, especially those who serve at Camp over the summer. I have found that although our high schoolers are invited to the confirmation retreat, they don't want to come because it is too much like a confirmation retreat and not deep enough.

YA – We will be having a YA retreat on March 25-27th in Goodview, MN where we will be also doing a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in La Crosse, WI. This will be good for unity and community within the young adults here at SJB and then hoping that with that community they can bring it to helping in youth ministry and around the parish.

On the school side, we will be working with the school for a Holy Week Retreat, like we did last year.

For summer, we have over 100 students attending CYSC, and I am gathering interested in attending a Steubenville Conference in Rochester, MN as well. That would take place July 15-17.

Ongoing Youth Ministry:

Goal: Formalize SJB Youth Ministry Strategy

- Prepare Strategy by 11.1.21
- Present to SJB Parents for feedback on 11.9.21
- Present to ODM Commission for feedback on 11.16.21
- Present final strategy to Leadership team before 12.15.21

Goal: Build Volunteer Team for YM to Transition NET Team

Using the numbers from EFC the past year, create a layout of what is needed by each role and create job descriptions for each of them by 1.1.22 – Volunteer JD (see last 6 pages)

- MSYG - 7-8 people, 6:00-7:30pm Wednesday Evening
- HSYG - 6-7 people, 8-9:30pm Wednesday Evening

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- OYR - 4-5 people, 2:30-4pm Thursday after school
- Confirmation - 8 people, 6:30-8pm, Sunday Evening & Weekend Retreat
- EFC Leaders - 1 week in the summer
- Discipleship Group Leaders - varies depending on the number of students invested in D-groups, 1.5 hours leading small groups weekly/bi-weekly.
- Informational YM Meeting for whole parish before 1.31.22
 - parish wide YM & EFC meeting scheduled for January 11, 2022 -updates on meeting?
- January 2022- February 2022 - Make Invitations into Youth Ministry to fill jobs roles
 - Brainstorm volunteers for Mikayla to invite/ask
- March 2022 - onboard volunteers through training, working alongside the NET team, observing programming, etc.
- April 2022 - volunteers feel equipped to run youth group without the assistance from NET team

Goal: Expand Youth Minister Team

- Define additional roles needed, create job descriptions and skills needed
 - Worship Leader needed, hopeful PT Leader
 - Review YM JD's
- Create business case for roles approval
- Look into college internship programming through discussing with colleges & other parishes who have seen this work.
- Present to Leadership Team by 4.30.22 to then have hiring posted by 5.31.22 or sooner, so that new hire could attend EFC June 19-24th 2022 (registration opens December 15th, 2021, for MS & February 2022 for HS)

Goal: Generate Marketing Campaign for Youth Programs

- Identify SJB demographics to find target audience (parents & youth grades 6-12, young adults)
- Define marketing strategy & collateral
- Secure funding for marketing collateral
- *Host bi-annual parent & youth programs to generate excitement – align timing with Extreme Faith Camp Registration*

Goal: Come up with a 6-year plan for formation with our young people so that they leave SJB youth ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Written Report – Jill Fink, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship

Becoming Catholic RCIA: Both classes continue to meet. Rite of Sending and Rite of Election was Sunday, March 6 at 10:30am Mass and 1:30pm at the Basilica. 6 Candidates with their sponsors are participating. Penitential Rite will be celebrated Sat., March 12 at the 4:30pm Mass. There are no Elect this year, so we will not celebrate the scrutinies. Vigil Mass is Saturday, April 16 at 8:30pm with a reception following.

Synod: Our 10 Parish Representatives meet on Saturday, March 5 from 9:00-2:30pm for the Parish Synod Leadership Team Consultation with Fr. Jaspers and Jill Fink. Our Parish Deanery Representatives are Louie and Socchie Fondevilla, Beth Robertson, Pat Rother, Stephanie Waite, Joe Jensen, Don Grant, Rob Jensen, Jane Heinks and Molly Feiker. Feedback was given on the 3 focus areas for the draft propositions and brainstorming how St. John's would bring to life one proposition for each area.

Baptism: Jill is continuing to work with families toward May baptisms. 4 couples attended the last Baptism Class.

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RCIC: The 4 families continue to meet with Sr. Ruth on Sunday morning for their catechesis and attend Mass together. Two other families with middle school youth are preparing for the sacraments with catechists. Sun., April 24 is the Mass of Celebration for First Communion. There are 2 youth to be baptized and receive first communion. 5 youth will receive first reconciliation and first communion. 1 youth will receive first reconciliation, first communion and confirmation.

Marriage Ministry: Cana Dinner was held on Saturday, February 12 in St. Joseph's Hall. 50 couples attended with 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. We are currently working with 16 couples toward Marriage this coming summer/fall.

Adult Lifelong Learning Studies: Sr. Clarinda finished her 7-week study on **Angels** on Wednesday morning. Jill Fink finished the **Presence Study** on Thursday evening with 20 people gathering. Reach More small group ministry will be launched in lent headed by Jessica Balzarini. Defeating Spiritual Discouragement was Tuesday, February 22 at 7pm in St. Joseph Hall led by Megan Kruse with 15 people attending on this snowy night. Several people are connecting with Megan to discern spiritual direction. Jill will be presenting a 7 week study this summer.

Family Formation Parent Program: Speaker for March is Fr. Jaspers on the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the title: The Clean Sweep. Parents had an evaluation of the Family Formation program and led in reflection on the Forgiving Father/Prodigal Son as well as being invited to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Speaker for April is Deacon Michael Lane on the topic of O Holy Week.

First Sacraments: Parents are working on Home Lessons for First Communion.

Written Report – Michael Lane

Baptisms: 3 scheduled.

Weddings: No weddings scheduled.

Written Report – Jessica Balzarini

Reach More Training Group continues to be great formation and training for our adults in the parish. It provides an opportunity to deepen their own spiritual life through prayer with scripture and formation for what it means to enter the Church's evangelizing mission. There is also a piece of the training that equips people with the skills to enter the parishes task of relational evangelization. Each member has also agreed to 1 on 1 discipleship mentoring session as well. This is a place to grow personally in the habits of discipleship.

The Reach More Point People, those coordinating the process, continue to develop ways to shepherd or pastorally care for our leaders. We are looking at ways to encourage mission communities, training and formation nights, and 1 on 1 support to help our parishioners continue growth as a mission leader and be encouraged and supported in this important work.

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. The continues to include an inspiring talk, light discussion, and an opportunity to respond to the Lord in prayer. Our first speaker is Mary Clare Stroh Molero on February 2
