

**Saint John the Baptist**  
**Discipleship and Mission Commission**  
**MINUTES**

<b>Date:</b>	May 17, 2022	<b>Chair</b>	Melanie Dowell	<b>Staff Liaison</b>	Jessica Balzarini
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Next Meeting: **June 7 at 5:30 p.m.**

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

- I. Opening Prayer – Jessica
  
- II. Mission Statements -Read Aloud
  - A. Parish Mission Statement: Bearing witness to Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life: GO. MAKE. TEACH.
  - B. DMC Mission Statement – *“Inspiring and Leading all at St. John’s to become intentional disciples of Jesus Christ through evangelization and faith formation within the heart of the Catholic Church.”*
  
- II. Monthly Agenda Items
  - A. Welcome and introduce any visitors – no visitors
  - B. Time to discuss Fr. Paul’s opening remarks/answer questions:
    - 1. How wonderful were Mary Jo Copeland’s comments regarding SJBC
    - 2. Amazing the holocaust survivor
  - C. Update from previous month’s PLC - none
  - D. Review of Written Reports – Any questions regarding written reports? No questions.
  - E. Live Report – None
  
- I. New Business
  - A. Review documents requested by Executive Team and brought to PLC
    - 1. Review and update ministry list- completed, see exhibit A.
    - 2. Categorize ministries to Core Values – completed, see exhibit A.
    - 3. Review Member listing and update -reviewed and updated.
  - B. Goals Sheet
    - 1. Review Goals for this year.
      - 1. Turn in our accomplishments -Exhibit B
        - a. Reviewed, Advised, and Aided in the creation and execution of the Youth Ministry Transition Plan
        - b. Review of New Member Process with recommendations
        - c. Review and advise new process for Engaged Couples and Marriage preparations
        - d. Aide in Sustaining ongoing Discipleship and Mission ministries, events, and activities.
      - 2. Start looking at goals for next year based on Fr. Paul’s talk tonight -tabled

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- C. 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.
    - 1. We are not able to do yet as we do not have data from the diocese
  - 2. Fostering Connectedness -tabled until next year.
    - 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 - DONE
    - 1. Evaluate current process
    - 2. Create a new follow up to the process
  - 4. Closing out the year of St. Joseph DONE
    - 1. Possible Indulgence with Meditation on the Our Father
  - 5. Review and Organize Ministries to Core Values
  - 6. ADDED: Youth Ministry Plan for Transition from NET team to parish teams
- II. **Upcoming Events & Volunteer** needs specific for Commission members
  - A. Leader Training for CYSC Camp – June 5<sup>th</sup>
  - B. Family Celebration for End of the School Year – SJB at the Saints game June 8
  - C. VBS for PreK-k June 14-16 – need volunteers and still have open spots
  - D. Summer Revival events:
    - 1. Saturday, June 25 Feast Day Celebration 4:30 Mass, Picnic Dinner, Outdoor Music with Impact Entertainment
    - 2. Feed My Starving Children July 27
    - 3. Bonfire and Rosary August 21 7:15 pm (Also the Backpack Blessing at all mass times)
  - E. The Search a 7-session study starting June 15
  - F. CYFC Camp June 19-24
  - G. Totus Tuus July 31-Aug 5
- III. Review of Events and Feedback
  - A. Devoted April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  - B. First Eucharist April 30/May 1<sup>st</sup> – excellent, highly organized
  - C. Net Goodbye Bonfire Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – was fun
  - D. ODM Volunteer Appreciation Dinner May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 6:00-8:00 p.m. – wonderful evening, so nice to be thanked and appreciated, dinner was great
- IV. Ending Prayer – Steven B.
- V. Adjourn – 8:00 p.m.

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**Written Report – Jen Livermont, Coordinator for Discipleship for Families**

**Sunday School** – The last Sunday school was April 24, 2022.

**Family Formation** – Last family formation is May 4<sup>th</sup>. Our speaker is Jessica Balzarini. The topic is “The Trinity.”

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**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 back to work.

**First Sacraments** –The First Eucharist practices are scheduled for April 25, 26, 27<sup>th</sup>. First Eucharist will be the weekend of April 30-May1st during the 4:30 pm, 8:30am and 10:30 am masses.

Egg Hunt – We had an estimated 296 children attending the Egg Hunt this year. We gave away goodie bags, refreshments, games, and fun for all. This year we had the egg hunt outside, and all other parts were inside. We have determined that the hallways and plaza is not enough space to accommodate this number of children and their families.

**Summer - VBS** dates are June 14-16 from 9-12. Totus Tuus dates are Sunday, July 31 – Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> for 7-12<sup>th</sup> and Monday, August 1 - Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> for 1-6<sup>th</sup> grades. Registrations are out and we are almost full for Totus Tuus. As of writing this, each age group has single digits spots left.

**Sunday Fundays:**

Pentecost Sunday Funday: June 5<sup>th</sup>, Pancake Breakfast, service projects, play games and pray the Rosary. This event may or may not happen due to Fr. Paul's schedule. Watch for updates regarding this event.

Meet the Tutus Tuus Sunday Funday: July 31<sup>st</sup>, games and pray the Rosary

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

**Revivals:**

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

July 27<sup>th</sup> – Feed My Starving Children Revival

August 21<sup>st</sup> – Rosary and Bonfire Revival

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**Written Report – Mikayla Anderson, Coordinator for Discipleship for Youth**

We are wrapping up our school year things in the next couple of weeks! The NET team leaves SJB May 7<sup>th</sup>, so that is also when we end our programming for the school year. We will return once school gets out!

This week our seniors are leading the second to last youth group. They are going to be talking about the Eucharist and we will have small groups! Our last youth group is on May 4<sup>th</sup>, where we will pray over the NET team and end out the year!

We also have our last Middle School night on Friday – a Hawaiian Party! We will also talk about how to live fully alive through Christ and then celebrate the year. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are welcome to see what youth group all is about – especially those coming to camp!

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The sacrament of Confirmation is on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Cathedral of St. Paul – so I am busy preparing for that as well! We already had our last small group, and this Sunday we will have our last large group about coordination and praying for our candidates.

These last two weeks of the NET team and programming are busy around here, ensuring that we close out the year well.

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**Written Report – Jill Fink, Coordinator of Adult Discipleship**

**Becoming Catholic RCIA:** five candidates will be received into the fullness of the catholic faith and be confirmed at the Vigil Mass is Saturday, April 16 at 8:30pm with a reception following. Two couples will have a convalidation of marriage on Holy Thursday in a joint ceremony. The RCIA classes will continue in Mystogogy into May.

**Synod:** Beth Robertson and Rob Jensen will be our St. John's Representatives at the June -5 Synod Assembly. Pat Rother will serve as our alternate. The Synod Representatives will have a retreat, theological documents, and training before the Synod. St. John the Baptist is hosting one of the retreat options on May 18.

**Baptism:** The Longnecker children Emma, Avery, and Ruby as well as the Stenzel family with Bridger will be baptized on May 15. Jill will be going into the preschool with Emma, Avery, and Bridger's classes to do the CGS baptism presentation and advertising for other preschool families who may be interested in having their children baptized.

**RCIC:** Sun., April 24 is the Mass of Celebration for our students involved in RCIC. Lily and Cullen Cisneros will be baptized and receive their First Communion. Betsy and Kris Rewald came onboard for home catechesis with the family. Emma Bernston from St. John's school will receive her First Communion. Madeleine Fink, our new middle school teacher partnered with Jill to develop curriculum and lessons for students in the school. Lexadrea Morados, Macie, Mariah and Mat Solamillo as well as Kent Supena and Emman Veronique, members of the Sunday morning class with Sr. Ruth, will all make their First Communion. A reception in conjunction with the pancake breakfast will follow in St. Joseph Hall.

**Marriage Ministry:** An invitation from Fr. Paul will be sent to couples to discern the ministry of marriage mentor has gone out. A training is set for May 24. We are currently working with 16 couples toward Marriage this coming summer/fall.

**Adult Lifelong Learning Studies:** Megan Kruse, a licensed spiritual director will lead a 9-week course entitled Introduction to Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola for up to twelve participants on Thursdays starting April 12 in SJB Library. Jill will be presenting a 7 week study this summer on Wednesday evenings entitled Search. The program explores the larger questions of who God is and how we can know Him. The study will be casual and a drop in feel. It is a great study to invite others who are interested in Christianity and understanding the bigger questions in light of our faith. The study is also found on formed.org if anyone needs to miss. The study begins in June.

**Family Formation Parent Program:** Speaker for April was Deacon Michael Lane on the topic of O Holy Week followed by the families praying the stations of the cross. May speaker is Jessica Balzarini on The Trinity: Now That is a Mystery.

**First Sacraments:** Practices and celebrations are forthcoming the end of April and first weekend in May.

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**Written Report – Michael Lane**

**Baptisms:** 4 scheduled.

**Weddings:** No weddings scheduled.

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**Written Report – Jessica Balzarini**

**Reach More Training Group 5 beginning this week!**

Currently we have six adults in the Reach More Mission Training. We are halfway through the material currently. By the end of our time together each participant will be given the opportunity to discern where God might be calling them to enter more deeply into relationships with other people and being intentional in accompanying others in the journey of faith.

Our Lent Season of Small Group had nineteen small groups that met and worked through Lenten materials with about 150 participants.

**devoted**

The devoted gathering in April will mark its 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! This month we will celebrate in a special way the great gift and blessing this opportunity has been for the women at St. John's and the many women who have visited us during that time. One key reminder of our success is the many parishes who have been inspired to bring a similar gathering to their home parishes.

This month we welcome Megan Kruger as our speaker. "My spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Lk 1:47) Do you want to magnify joy? Mary, our Mother, is the greatest exemplar of feminine joy. She is a joyful mother. She is a joyful wife. As Devoted Women we can learn a lot from her. Megan will share stories of magnifying joy from her own life and share musings about how the Saints, Scripture, Sorrows, and Sacraments express a joy filled life. The evening will also include prayer, wine, chocolate, and conversation.

Megan has a missionary zeal and evangelist's heart. She is a graduate of Franciscan University, the Pope John Paul II Institute, and the University of Divinity with a master's in arts in theology.

**EXHIBIT A**

2021-22 Ministry & Commission List			Definition			Core Values <i>Generous</i>		
#	Group	Commission	Ministry	Activity	Other	Prayer	Growth	Spirit
1	All Saints Party	Discipleship & Mission		X				X
2	Baptism Prep	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	

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3	Baptism Prep Facilitator Couples	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
4	Cana Dinner	Discipleship & Mission		X			X	
5	Catechists- Middle School	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
6	Catechists- Sunday School	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
7	Catechists-Family Formation	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
8	Catholic Watchmen	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
9	Catholic Watchmen Vanguard	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
10	Children's Bulletin	Discipleship & Mission		X			X	
11	Circle of Women	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
12	Circle of Women Core Team	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
13	Circle of Women Small Group Leaders	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
14	Confirmation	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
15	Confirmation Group Leaders	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
16	Confirmation Group Leaders	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
17	devoted	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
18	devoted Core Team	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
19	Disciple Group Leaders	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
20	Disciple Groups	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
21	Discipleship & Mission Commission	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
22	Egg Hunt	Discipleship & Mission		X				X
23	Elem. Family Formation	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
24	Encounter Small Groups	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
25	Extreme Faith Camp	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	

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26	Extreme Faith Camp Adult Leaders	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
27	Extreme Faith Camp Extreme Team	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
28	Extreme Faith Camp Prayer Team	Discipleship & Mission	X			X		
29	First Eucharist	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
30	First Reconciliation	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
31	High School Leaders	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
32	HJF Catechetical Institute	Discipleship & Mission		X			X	
33	Hospitality	Discipleship & Mission		X			X	
34	Journey to the Inn	Discipleship & Mission		X		X		
35	Lighthouse Media	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
36	Marriage in Christ	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
37	Marriage Prep Process	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
38	Men's Fellowship	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
39	Middle School Family Formation	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
40	Middle School Youth Group Leaders	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
41	NET Team	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
42	New Parishioner Welcome	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
43	Nursery Volunteers/ Child Care for Events	Discipleship & Mission		X				X
44	Pilgrimages	Discipleship & Mission		X		X		
45	Plaza Book Sales	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
46	Prepare Marriage Mentors	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
47	Prepare Marriage Mentors Leadership	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
48	RCIA	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	

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49	RCIA sponsors	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
50	RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children)	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
51	Reach More Missionary Disciples	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
52	Retreats	Discipleship & Mission	X			X		
53	Scripture Studies	Discipleship & Mission	X			X	X	
54	Summer Mission	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
55	Summer Revival	Discipleship & Mission		X		X	X	X
56	Sunday Funday	Discipleship & Mission		X			X	
57	Sunday School	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
58	Totus Tuus	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
59	Vacation Bible School	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
60	Volunteer & Credentialing	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
61	Welcome Committee (New Parishioners)	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
62	Y365	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
63	Young Adult Ministry	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	
64	Youth Leadership Team	Discipleship & Mission	X					X
65	Youth Ministry	Discipleship & Mission	X				X	

**EXHIBIT B**

Goal #1 To Restore Discipleship and Mission Ministries – A Year of restoration, we will not create new ministries but work to re-create good structures to help ministries flourish and be rooted more deeply in parish life and the life of our families.

- a. Supported large community events with no social distancing
  - a. Serving 300 Children at the All-Saints Party
  - b. Over 300 attended Journey to the Inn
  - c. Handed out 296 prize bags to children at Egg Hunt



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- d. The first year we have seen additional spiritual fruit of these events, families bringing children to the sacraments and adults being invited into RCIA and becoming Catholic and finishing Initiation Sacraments
- b. Onboard new Staff with new responsibilities
  - a. Coordinator of Discipleship for Adults began in August of 2021 with a smooth transition to responsibilities with Sacramental Prep for adults, Baptism Prep, RCIA and RCIC, a study on the Eucharist, as well as leading our local synod process.
- c. Helped in sustaining current Discipleship ministries through participation, leadership, and advice
  - a. Participated in and lead Adult Small Groups
  - b. Helped prepare 60 children for 1<sup>st</sup> Communion and 42 teens for Confirmation and 13 children receive sacraments through Baptism Prep and RCIC, and 70 parents of infants for Baptism
  - c. Journeyed with six people as worked towards becoming Catholic with 1 person receiving sacraments elsewhere
  - d. Aided 61 families to live family discipleship at home through the Family Formation program
  - e. Walked alongside the NET team as they worked with dozens of middle school and high school youth in Youth Ministry and the beginnings of Young Adult Ministry
  - f. Formed 38 children weekly in Sunday School
  - g. Lead Successful Cana Dinner with many new couples in attendance
  - h. Encouraged and promote participation in Synod Small Group Consult, 150 people attended
  - i. Supported 2 Natural Family Planning Practitioners begin working with women and couples at SJB
  - j. Encouraged childcare during Sunday morning mass times and for events throughout the year to accommodate adult attendance

Goal #2 Help Youth Ministry create a transition plan for youth ministry as the NET team departs from St. John's

- a. Reviewed and gave helpful feedback on the Youth Ministry Transition Plan
- b. Edited volunteer job descriptions with recommendations
- c. Made immediate recommendations to PLC and LT for additional staffing needs to hire additional youth minister
- d. Continuing to make recommendations to the parish for other gaps in ministry, i.e., Serving at Fall fest or Easter Vigil reception

Goal #3 Review New Member Process

- a. Evaluated current process at SJB
  - a. Shared individual experiences of all present
  - b. Reviewed our current materials and process
- b. Contacted other parishes about their new member welcome process
- c. Recommended content for the New Member Orientation and potential follow-up

Other Accomplishments:

- a. Hosted Hospitality
- b. Reviewed monthly reports for Discipleship Ministries
- c. Made recommendations to the upcoming changes in Marriage Prep Ministry as we move to a new Program called, Witness to Love.
- d. Offered Restoration Event based on the Our Father
- e. Advised on upcoming changes to programming for 2022-2023 ministry year