

# Saint John the Baptist

## Discipleship and Mission Commission

### Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	January 17, 2023	<b>Chair</b>	Emily Carlberg	<b>Staff Liaison</b>	Jessica Balzarini
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Next Meeting: **February 14, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.**

Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present
Melanie Dowell (PLC REP)	No	Neil Steffl (PLC Rep Sub today)	X
Jessica Balzarini	NO	Mike Uzelac	No
Steven Broszko	Yes	Karl Zabinski	Yes
Emily Carlberg (Chair)	Yes	Jodie Wolla (recorder)	Yes
Erin Hardy	Yes	<b>Guest:</b> Jim Glaser	Yes
Jackie King	Yes	<b>Guest:</b> Claire Brostrom	Yes

- I. Opening Prayer – Neil
  
- II. Mission Statements (Recite 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. Opening Comments
  - A. Welcome and Introduce visitors.
  - B. Time to discuss Fr. Paul’s opening remarks – and question for review.
    1. What area of the Evangelization process, the baseball diamond do you feel you are right now?
      - Personally, each of us are on different parts of the diamond and potentially in more than one area on the diamond based on what the activity is.
    2. Which baseline is SJB most effective?
      - The consensus is we are most effective from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>.
    3. Needs the most growth.
      - The members agreed that most growth is need from 3<sup>rd</sup> to home.
        - a. Examples discussed included:
          - i. Need more outreach from the school.
          - ii. Most advertising within the school district, it was felt many in area were not aware of SJB School
          - iii. Some members had neighbors or friends who are members of Eagle Brook, they are excellent at getting people trained to invite in and immediately be apart of small groups which

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provide evangelization education. We should invite the school to participate this way with families as well as the church.

- I. Ongoing Monthly Agenda Items
  - A. Update from previous month's PLC –Written report reviewed.
  - B. Goal 1a: Review of Written Reports – No questions
  - C. Goal 1b: Live Report – Claire Brostrom, Reach More Coordinator

#### **Live Report by Claire Brostrom, RM Coordinator, 1/17/23, 5:30pm**

- In my 6th month of the role Reach More Mission Coordinator
- Overarching goal: to equip lay parishioners in the heart and habits of discipleship... that they might discern their personal apostolate: those in their family, neighborhood, job, or parish whom they feel called to grow in faith with. The training group places a special emphasis on facilitating a small group, since that is a historically successful avenue for building relationships.
- My personal goal: to build relationships these first months...attending Devoted, new parishioner events, retreat, etc. My main hope is to shift the culture to one that really prioritizes discipleship relationships. Have seen improved response to my invites for coffee/one on one check-ins.
- I met with each of the existing leaders before Christmas; and already feel that I have much more relational collateral going into the spring!

#### **Updates**

I began by attending the summer mission training group that Jessica was finishing (7 women)

- Have since been leading a training group with Neil Steffl which began in October. 5 participants, finishing the training next Monday night. At least 3 of the 5 are already actively inviting for small groups that they will base out of the parish.
- Our spring is looking optimistic with 4 training groups running! Myself on Thursday evenings, Jessica for staff on Monday afternoons, Neil with his Wed AM group, and Michele Stori with her women's group
- I've been most excited by the depth of this most recent training group; the EC material is amazing; and Neil and I are experienced SG facilitators...but we've said so many times how spoiled we feel with this group going above and beyond. I get the sense that there are many parishioners who are desiring to take the next step in being a missionary disciple, but perhaps intimidated by the commitment. And I've just been thrilled at how these initially tentative "yesses" have really deeply committed to attending group, doing the daily prayer companion, and some seeking spiritual direction and retreats outside of what we offer.

#### **Next 2 weeks**

- Leader Huddle next Wednesday evening: "When God Feels Distant" & Lenten plan.

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- Lenten small group publicity weekend 28/29th; last year had ~200 in Lenten small groups...hoping to see great participation again this year.
- Next Step for women who were on weekend retreat -> then inviting to Lenten groups.

#### Looking ahead

- With the focus on small group training from Synod, we foresee not running a Reach More training group in the fall, and following the guidance from the Archdiocese (using Brotherhood of Hope content)

#### Numbers

- Have trained 45 leaders; 39 actively engaged with groups currently.
- Expect 22 more trained at the end of the spring session, so a total of 72 leaders to date!
- Attendance at Huddles has been about 30%...have tried all different days, seems inevitable with people's varied schedules.

#### Discussion

- **What did we do before your position was created Claire?**
  - Neil is remarkable, he's a volunteer yet he is like a full-time position in his role.
  - Jessica was amazing! She managed this whole RM program along with her other job duties. Last year she trained leaders and had over 200 people joined small groups during Lent alone.
  - This is a remarkable program, Jessica, Director of Office of Discipleship and Missions at the time, with Neil started and grew this ministry. That is how my part time position came about.
  - Claire explained they all reach out 3 times/year with all leaders active or inactive. The Trinity...we meet to keep our leaders. It's like if you have season ticket holders for a sport, you really want to keep that group coming back year after year!
  - Question was asked of Claire, "What do you need?"

#### II. Business

A. Goal 3a: – Discuss Synod Document Section 1 and 2

1. **Read Introduction, Section 1 and 2 before the meeting (link to report sent in email)**  
[https://archspmmainite.s3.amazonaws.com/Synod/Synod\\_pastoral+letter\\_112222.pdf](https://archspmmainite.s3.amazonaws.com/Synod/Synod_pastoral+letter_112222.pdf)
2. Discussion lead by Steve Broszko
  - Steve did an excellent job leading the member in discussion regarding the Synod document.

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- The *discussion was cut short due to lack of time before PLC.*

#### Discussion on Section 9 “Harvest is abundant, but laborers are few” included:

Question: “What gives you hope the Harvest is abundant?”

- “NONE’s” (Defined as A “none” is a **person reporting no religious affiliation**. Nones are not atheists, agnostics, or adherents of any kind.)
  - None’s are exceeding the religious establishment however they are not encountering heresy, this group is more of a clean slate, t hey are just not going to church or practicing religion.
- Catholic school growth
- Number of people seeking Baptism
- 72 EC leaders at SJBC – A huge thank you for the work, Jessica has done! Because of her work, our parish is ahead of the game!
- The church is focusing and not in maintenance mode any longer.
- We have the BEST seminaries and seminary staff in the entire country here.

B. Goal 3a: Review Parishioner Feedback look at feedback from Question 1B (attached in email & hard copies will be provided at commission meeting)

1. What 3 areas do we do well at SJB? *Did not have time to discuss.*
2. What are 3 suggestions from the list? *Did not have time to discuss.*

C. Fits in Goal 1: Review of area churches program fee structure and scholarship policy.

#### **ACTION FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS**

1. Commission members assigned parishes to contact their DRE, Formation Coordinator, check websites and gather information on Family Formation (grade school, middle school, and high school), First Sacraments, Confirmation, Retreats for confirmation, RCIA/RCIC, Vacation Bible School, if they offer Totus Tuus what is the fee structure.

- Each member to be given parishes to contact and inquire on their program fee structures and scholarship policies.
- **Each member is asked to email results to Jessica, Emily, and Jodie on or before Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**
  - a. St. Ambrose in Woodbury – Melanie
  - b. Church of Saint Paul in Ham Lake -Erin
  - c. St. Patrick’s Oak Grove - Emily
  - d. St. Vincent De Paul Brooklyn Park - Mike
  - e. St. Stephens, Anoka - Karl
  - f. St. John’s Catholic Church, Little Canada- Neil

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- g. St. Agnes, St. Paul - Steven
- h. Transfiguration Oakdale -Emily
- i. St. Peter's Forest Lake - Jackie
- j. St Odilia's in Shoreview - Karl
- k. Maternity of Mary - Melanie
- l. Epiphany, Coon Rapids - Neil
- m. St. Peter Mendota - Erin
- n. Our Lady of Grace Edina - Steven
- o. Holy Name of Jesus Wayzata - Jackie
- p. St. Hubert's Chanhassen- Jackie
- q. St. Charles Borromeo, St. Anthony - Steven
- r. St. Michael in St. Michael - Mike
- s. Church of St. Timothy, Blaine - Jackie

- Inquiry questions included:
  - a. What is your fee schedule for FF, MS, HS, First Sacraments, Confirmation and retreats, any materials fees, RCIA/RCIC, VBS and Totus Tuus?
  - b. Do you have one fee for your church members children and one fee for non-members children?
  - c. Do you close your program registration or leave it open and enroll all year?
  - d. Do you offer scholarships for programs? What is the process to apply for scholarships and any restrictions on how many scholarships a person can receive?
  - e. Other:
  
- In February, we will plan to review SJBC current program fees and scholarships to the data gathered by our committee members and make recommendations to Jessica.

### III. Long Term Planning

- A. January 28/29 Mass Publicity Weekend for Lent Small Groups**
- B. Cana Dinner February 18**
- C. SJBC Men's Retreat – March 3-5**
- D. ODM Summer Events Promo Weekend – March 3-5**
- E. Egg Hunt – April 8**
- F. Night of Gratitude – April 28**
- G. VBS June 20-22**
- H. St. John's Feast Day Celebration June 24**

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I. Catholic Youth Summer Camp – June 25-June 30

J. Totus Tuus date - July 22-29

IV. Review of Events

A. Past Events for Review and Feedback

1. Last Month's Events and Ongoing Ministry:

- Ongoing Ministries
- Christmas General Discussion
- Journey to the Inn – January 7<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Awesome event, excellent planning, and very welcoming event for all.
  - b. Keep the same amount of advertising time for events as this one.
  - c. What's capacity, it seems like this event was at capacity in the hall.
  - d. Recommended more tables be set up and now plan to have tables in plaza going forward especially if weather is good.
  - e. Another option to accommodate all the people is to offer one journey before Mass and one Journey after Mass. Essentially an early round and a late round.
- New Parishioner Welcome – January 8<sup>th</sup>
- SJBC Women's Retreat – January 13-15<sup>th</sup>
  - a. New addition offering after the retreat is "Next Step Training" called Hearts and Habits for 6-week.

B. Upcoming Calendar of Events and Volunteers Needs:

1. Synod Evangelization Team to begin Training Tuesday, February 7.
2. Winter Study – Jeremiah starts January 11<sup>th</sup>.
3. Alive in the Word – Eucharist starts January 17<sup>th</sup>.
4. Wines to Wishes – February 4<sup>th</sup>.
5. February Commissions – February 14<sup>th</sup>
6. Devoted – February 15<sup>th</sup> and Watchmen January 12
7. Cana Dinner February 18
8. Still need childcare help – brainstorm ideas

V. Ending Prayer - Steven

VI. Adjourn at 8:00 pm

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

**Childcare** – In addition to our regular programs that we provide childcare for, we will also provide childcare for the Reconciliation Retreat and Reconciliation Sacrament in January.

**Sunday School** – We had our Sunday School Christmas program on December 18<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30am Mass in St. Joseph’s Hall. We had a packed house, and the kids did a great job! Sunday School is starting back up on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Catholic Kids Bulletins** – We are and have been printing 80 Catholic Kids Bulletins every weekend. We will increase that amount to 100 to see if we have leftovers. We ran out of bulletins before 10:30 Mass began this week. I want to see if that was just because of the Journey to the Inn or if we really need to increase the bulletins. If we have quite a few leftovers with printing 100, I will only do that for weeks when Sunday School is not in session.

**Family Formation** – We added a student to Family Formation in December. Our new total is 109. Our topic for the month is The Bible: Our Family’s Story. Pat Millea will give the parent talk and lead the families in a Lectio Divina on the Baptism of the Lord along with parents blessing each child at the baptismal font while the child makes a personal “yes” to Jesus.

**Epiphany Blessing Bags** – We gave out 300 Epiphany Blessing Bags as well as 240 Holy Water bottles.

**Journey to the Inn** – What a huge success! The Knights of Columbus served over 400 people dinner within one hour and we had a families and groups that came after dinner, so this was by far our largest crowd. We had a miniature donkey which was a fun new addition to our animals this year. We also added in Christmas carols back in St. Joseph’s Hall for everyone to enjoy during the cookies and cocoa (~550 cookies & cocoa) at the end of the night. Lots of parishioners invited people to join them here so there were lots of new faces, so it was a great evangelizing opportunity.

**Written Report – Sarah Wilder, Coordinator for Discipleship for Middle School Youth and Young Adults**

Focus Area 1: Middle School Faith Formation

- 32 registered – January 11<sup>th</sup> attendance 26/32 (81%)
- Continuing our journey through the Old Testament.

Focus Area 2: SJB School Ministry

- Sarah has been visiting SJB school regularly (before and after school, during advisory, lunch)
- ...is continuing to build relationships with students, learning names and making connections.

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- ...has visited all the religion classes to promote Catholic Youth Summer Camp
- ...has sat in on all religion classes to participate in discussion and support learning.
- ...is working with staff to lead meditations for the monthly adoration.
- Open Youth Room has 15-20 kids attending weekly.
  - Adults present weekly: 3-4
  - Students have expressed that they are growing in prayer.
  - Last week we prayed the liturgy of the hours and the kids caught on well.
- D-Groups
  - 1 girls d-group is currently forming for 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Grade Level Retreats
  - I am collaborating with the religion teachers to plan a retreat for each grade (6-8<sup>th</sup>)
  - We are hoping to get parents involved as small group leaders.
  - We will stay on site.

#### Focus Area 3: Middle School Youth Group

- Dates set for 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month.
  - Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 24
- MSYG will include games, themed message, prayer, snacks etc.
- Hoping to do games in the gym and adoration in the church for the next three youth groups.

#### Focus Area 4: Young Adult Ministry

- Take And Eat – A Young Adult Gathering
  - We are rebranding our young adult's group.
  - It is a "three course meal" in which we
    - 4:00 chew on the word
    - 5:30 receive we Eucharist at mass.
    - 6:30 go out for dinner.

#### **Written Report – Mikayla Anderson, Coordinator for Discipleship for High School Youth and Confirmation**

No Report for January

#### **Written Report – Michael Lane, Sacramental Records Coordinator**

**Baptisms in January:**



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**Weddings in January:**

No weddings for January

**Written Report – Claire Brostrom, Reach More Coordinator**

Live Report tonight, see live report section in minutes.

**Written Report – Jessica Balzarini, Director of Parish Life**

**SJB Retreats for Men and Women Awaken.** The Women's retreat is this coming weekend January 13-15. We are completely full. Please keep 40 participants and the team of 10 in your prayers this weekend as they encounter the Lord more deeply this weekend and build community with each other. The men's Core Team has begun planning the March 3-5 retreat and praying for those called to attend.

**Synod Evangelization Team** has been officially formed and the names have been submitted to the Archdiocese. The team will attend a Kick-off event in January with formation and training to begin in February. The team will participate in the School of Discipleship through the Catechetical Institute.

**Written Report – Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis**

**Baptism:** Class on January 9. Teaching Couples are incorporating new elements in the class format.

**First Sacraments:** Parents are working through their final Home Lessons. Check Point for December Home lessons was January 7 at Journey to the Inn. The First Reconciliation Retreat is Sunday, January 22 with an altering start of 2:00pm or 2:45pm. The retreat will have individual time for parent/child to work through some review materials and tour of the confessional as well as large group time with Jill Fink and Fr. Paul. First Reconciliation Celebration is Saturday, January 28 at 9am in the church. Several priests will be available to hear confessions for the children and families. The grade 2 catechists and schoolteachers are assisting at the retreat and celebration.

**RCIC:** 8 baptized children celebrated their first Reconciliation at the Advent Reconciliation Service on December 18. The next Family Meeting is Sunday, January 8 at 9:30-10:15 for check in, review of Christian Life Unit and looking ahead to First Communion. Students will receive classroom lessons

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according to their age in Family Formation, with Sarah Wilder in middle school or with Miss Fink in the school.

**Becoming Catholic RCIA:** Classes continue in the sacramental unit on Thursday nights. We had a new catechumen work with a sponsor and now is attending the class. Students will learn about all the sacraments and have a tour of the sacristy and go over the Mass.

**Formation Parent Program:** January Formation Night is January 11 on the topic of The Bible: Our Family's Story. Pat Millea will be presenting the Parent Program. He will also encourage families on their Faith Plan with his series from Synod at Home. A parent/child large group prayer service is planned to engage families with pondering scripture together and remembering their baptism. February Formation Night is Wed., February 1. Fr. Joseph will present The Holy Spirit: Power and Strength for the Family.

**Marriage Ministry:** Four couples in RCIA are piloting the Witness to Love Convalidation curriculum. Mentor couples continue to work with engaged couples.

**Adult Ministry:** Jill will be serving on the Synod Evangelization Team with the School of Discipleship.