

Saint John the Baptist

Discipleship and Mission Commission

Minutes

Date:	June 13, 2023	Chair	Emily Carlberg	Staff Liaison	Jessica Balzarini
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Next Meeting: **August 22, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. Orientation/Kick-Off**

Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present
Melanie Dowell (PLC REP)	X	Deb Marsh	-
Jessica Balzarini	X	Neil Steffl	X
Steven Broszko	X	Mike Uzelac	-
Emily Carlberg (Chair)	X	Jodie Wolla (recorder)	X
Erin Hardy	-	Karl Zabinski	X
Jackie King	X	Guest: Jill Fink (in coming staff liaison for 2023-24)	X

- I. Opening Prayer – Jessica
- II. Mission Statements (Recite Aloud)
 - Parish Mission Statement: Bearing witness to Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life: GO. MAKE. TEACH.
 - 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
 - Welcome and Introduce visitors.
 - Jill Fink is visiting with us again this evening. For those of you who were not here last month, Jill will be taking on the responsibility as Staff Liaison for the Discipleship and Mission Commission.
 - Year in Review – any further discussion needed?
 - What is manducation? Answer: chewing on the word.
 - The data in the report, appreciated the numbers are included.
 - We love that there is a year in review.
 - The amount of work and accomplishments this year, amazing work!
 - 5 minutes, to the following question during our commission time.
 - What can the Executive Team do to better support your commission?
 - “Train greeters and the executive team to be more aware of new members/families and make an extra effort to welcome them at masses. Maybe take photos of the new members/families and share with the greeters and executive team.”
 - “Fr. Paul has a lot of ideas running through his head, does he share them with the executive team and other leaders?” It is too much for one person to handle, we would like to see him disperse them and have commissions take on more.”

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- “We would appreciate a live overview of the highlights from PLC last month and what each commission is working on each month during the opening remarks at each commission meeting. We have amazing conversations and so many good things accomplished in the D&M commission. We do not hear where it did land, was it heard, we do not hear back. We realize we get a written version but a live update each month would be welcomed.”

III. Ongoing Monthly Agenda Items

- Update from previous month’s PLC – See Written Report
- Goal 1a: Review of Written Reports – Any Questions
- Goal 1b: Live Report – No live report tonight

IV. Business

- Goal 1e: To review and analyze Registrations of parish programming to better understand parishioner/non-parishioner breakdowns and potentially make recommendations depending on outcomes. Make recommendation based on information:
 - **Recommendation:** Add parishioner/no-parishioner check boxes on all forms going forward. Capture this data for future review.
- Review Terms and Roles on Commission.
 - Neil is the only member whose term is up. He is considering renewing again.
- Review past events – Skip to Section IV in agenda.
- Review upcoming dates – Skip to Section
- Goal 2a: – Discuss Synod Document Section III C – Mystery of Pentecost and Section IV – Going Forth
 - **Action:** Read Section III The Upper Room Part C “The Mystery of Pentecost”. The Mystery of Pentecost #’s 37-50 and Section IV “Going Forth”.
 - **Action:** Plan to give feedback (feedback packet was handed out previously and attached to the April email). We will be working through III C & IV. Be ready to share: **3 items we do well and 3 items we should recommend from #5A and B and #6A and B to the SET team.**
 - You can access the entire Pastoral Letter and the Audio Version of the Pastoral Letter here: <https://www.archspm.org/synod/>
 - Questions for SECTION III – C. The Mystery of Pentecost

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- To what is Archbishop referring when he writes, “What God has joined, we have divided”? (39)
 - The Archbishop writes, “Only a culture of witness can turn the tide of decline that we are seeing in many areas of the Church today.” What might “a culture of witness” look like in today’s world – at your parish, in your family, in your community, or in your own life? (41)
 - How do the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to you at Confirmation operate in your life” (42)
 - How Can you renew your passion for the Second Vatican Council? (43)
 - Archbishop writes, “There would never have been a first evangelization without a first Pentecost; neither can there be a new evangelization without a new Pentecost.” Have you seen Pentecost, or do you desire to see Pentecost like the person who attended the Duquesne weekend? (43)
 - Who is responsible for evangelization in the Church? (45)
 - What is one God-given gift that you may use in service of the Lord, your fellow parishioners, and your family life? (47)
 - Is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit an ordinary part of your parish’s life? If yes, how is it manifested? If not, how might it be brought to flame? (49)
 - How can you help your parish be “a center of constant missionary outreach”? (50)
- **Final report on feedback on 3 items we do well at SJBC**
 - **Section 1B: Feedback**
 1. Small Groups – examples: RM, circle of women, Sr. Clarinda’s scripture studies, etc.
 2. Welcoming community and fellowship -example of large parish events- Egg hunt, Fall fest, All Saint’s Party, New Parishioner Welcome, hospitality, etc.
 3. Sacramental prep over the years has been very good.

Continued feedback what we do well at SJB

- **Section 2A and B:**
 1. Retreats – examples All parish men’s & women’s, the one-day retreats put on by Jessica/Father Paul. pilgrimages
 2. Small groups ex. RM & CGS
 3. Catholic identity, strong stance on personal holiness
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- **Section 3A: Feedback Top 3**
 1. Greeting at Mass & hospitality after Mass
 2. Live streaming and social media
 3. Getting the youth involved and engaged

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- **Section 3B: Feedback Top 3**
 1. Clear communications: bulletin
 2. Joy and adoration
 3. Inviting personally and pulpit announcements

- **Section 4A: Feedback Top 3**
 1. Reverence and silence during liturgies
 2. Liturgical seasons done well
 3. Daily confession times

- **Section 4B: Feedback Top 3**
 1. Consistently offering adult bible studies and the variety of studies offered
 2. Loved NET and young witnesses
 3. Collections for food, socks, Christmas, baby bush...

- **Section 5A: Feedback Top 3**
 1. Programming ex. Sunday School, Sr.'s Scripture
 2. We make mass accessible
 3. We teach parents along with kids ex. family formation family model

- **Section 5B: Feedback Top 3**
 1. Priests making connections with parishioners and young people.
 2. Teaching the faith to parishioners, families, children in so many ways. Ex. Adult Scripture, Sunday school, marriage ministries, small groups...
 3. SJB does everything with "JOY"!

- **Section 6A: Feedback Top 3**
 1. Extreme Faith Camp for youth.
 2. Teaching the Eucharist is Jesus.
 3. Youth focused mass(es). Ex School mass, 6:15 pm mass Sundays.

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- **Section 6B: Feedback Top 3**
 1. Young adult coordinator added!
 2. Testimonies
 3. SARAH, new middle school & young adult coordinator!! Intentional and amazing in her first year.

- **Top 3 items Recommend to “SET TEAM”**
 - **Section 1B:**
 1. More praise and worship church and school
 2. More opportunities for the elderly and to involve the elderly plus a plan to make personal invites to our inactive parishioners.
 3. Greater emphasis on and involvement from youth
 4. More opportunities for adoration and growth in personal prayer
 5. More opportunities for catechesis

- **Section 2A and B:**
 1. Mentorships/Spiritual Directors
 2. Target groups for outreach examples singles, grow young adults’ group, divorced, loss etc.
 3. Campaign to keep Sunday Holy

- **Section 3A: Feedback Top 3**
 1. Zero entry events and including the neighborhood.
 2. Service to get to know each other.
 3. Teaching to be friendly, take steps of faith, smile and create a warm environment.

- **Section 3B: Feedback Top 3**
 1. Business directory
 2. Invite the use of Charisms – make asks based on charisms
 3. Hear other voices in invitations

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- **Section 4A: Feedback Top 3**

1. Offer confessions during Mass
2. Teach aspects of the Mass
- 3.

- **Section 4B: Feedback Top 3**

1. Billboard
2. A NET team: maybe smaller team for more 1:1 discipleship and/or younger age and connecting

- **Section 5A: Feedback Top 3**

1. support families, provide more resources. Ex. “Homegrown Catholics materials.... books, games, etc.
2. Give kids of all ages more opportunities to participate in the life of the church.
- 3.. More events for young families and families with any school age kids.

- **Section 5B: Feedback Top 3**

1. Get kids of all ages involved in roles at Mass.
2. More teaching on “WHY” we do what we do. Ex. What’s this prayer, symbols, etc.
3. Create mentorships among you people and cross generations.

- **Section 6A: Feedback Top 3**

1. Catechize our parents and adults.
2. Grow youth small groups.
3. Create a bridge from HS to young adulthood and figure out how to equip youth transitioning from participating while at home with parents to continuing participating as their own person as a young adult.

- **Section 6B: Feedback Top 3**

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1. More young adult things to do! Maybe coordinate regionally, across deaneries and/or diocese.
2. More praise and worship opportunities
3. Grow young adult small groups.

- V. Long Term Planning
- VBS June 20-22 – Registration is FULL
 - St. John's Feast Day Celebration ~~June 24~~ Thursday June 22nd, 2023
 - devoted - June 28
 - Catholic Youth Summer Camp – June 25-June 30 - Full
 - Catholic Heart Workcamp Mission Trip to Indiana – registration is closed total at 8 of 25 & 4 adults.
 - Steubenville Youth Conference July 28-30– 8th -12th graders – closed with a total of 11 of 25 registered.
 - CYSC – 12 high school students registered as camp leaders.
 - Totus Tuus date - July 22-29
 - Grades 1-5 - full at 80 total
 - Grades 6-12 – 10 registered and still taking registrations.
 - Mission Training Group – to begin in May – Tabled to fall training.
- VI. Review of Events
- Past Events for Review and Feedback
 - Confirmation
 - School of Discipleship Activation Day and Small Group Visioning Day for SET Members
 - Upcoming Calendar of Events and Volunteers Needs:
 - VBS and Tutus Tuus Volunteers, housing for the team!
 - Still need childcare help
- VII. Ending Prayer
- VIII. Adjourn

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Written Report – Jen Livermont, Coordinator for Discipleship for Families

Childcare – We will be providing childcare for the Marriage Ministry Bunko Night on June 10th.

Sunday School – Sunday School is finished for the year. We are busy getting registrations for next year! The registration price increases August 1st.

Catholic Kids Bulletins – We are currently putting out 120 Catholic Kids Bulletins out each weekend.

Family Formation – Family Formation is finished for the year. We are busy getting registrations for next year! The registration price increases August 1st.

Vacation Bible School – VBS is June 20-22 from 9-noon. We have 52 children registered with an additional 20 coming from the Preschool Care Crew program. We will have VBS students in all 4 of the preschool rooms.

Totus Tuus - Totus Tuus is July 24-28 for the grade school program. We have 81 students signed up and I sent an email to one of the families on our waiting list to see if they would like to register. We are finalizing our volunteers and our schedule with Fr. Paul since Fr. Joseph will be out of the country this week.

Anniversary Celebration – of the dedication of the church will be Thursday, June 22nd. This will be a great event to invite all the VBS participants to since we will have our last day and water event that afternoon. We will have a daily Mass at 5:30pm, dinner, ice cream treats and a DJ out in the parking lot.

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

Focus Area 1: Middle School Faith Formation

- Pushing early bird registration
- Significant interest among 5th graders rising into 6th grade.
- In communication with seminary about getting seminarians to volunteer.

Focus Area 2: SJB School Ministry

- Sarah has been visiting SJB school regularly (before and after school, during advisory, lunch)
- ...has been attending many ends of the year events such as band concert, award ceremonies, graduations, picnics etc.
- Students in the school are getting excited for camp.

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- Met with 5th graders who will be going to camp (20ish) to answer questions.

Open Youth Room

- Is transitioning into Middle School Open Patio which will be on select Sundays from 11:30-1pm outside of St. Joseph Hall
- Kickoff with Corpus Christi Patio Party on June 11th!

D-Groups

- 8 6th grade girls are in the d-group which will break for the summer and resume in the fall.
- 8th grade summer study

Grade Level Retreats

- The 6th grade went well! It was a big hit with the 6th graders and many parents were able to help! The theme was God the Father.
- The 7th grade retreat went well. The theme was Jesus Messiah. Their parent volunteers were very excited and did great. Student engagement was mixed.
- The 8th grade retreat was great. Teachers reported 8th graders had a change in mood after the retreat.
- Sent thank you cards home with students to all parents who volunteered.

Focus Area 4: Young Adult Ministry

- Take And Eat – A Young Adult Gathering is taking a break for the summer.
- We will do more social events for the summer to build our population base.
- Monthly bonfire at the Schmidt home
- Monthly game nights
- encouraging them to interact outside of our group, members of the group have begun to take more initiative in planning events.
- in conversation with some of the men about starting a men's group (high interest)

CYSC

- 72 campers
- 14 high schoolers
- 12 adults/youth ministers
- 2 priests

Summer plans

- optional volunteer formation series on the gospel
- 8th grade summer study on the gospel
- a few "Middle School Open Patio" Dates TBD
- CYSC
- Totus Tuus
- Youth Room Updates
- Professional Development

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

Confirmation – Our students have received the sacrament of Confirmation!! It was a joyful day, and it was amazing to see how excited they were about the sacrament. I do really believe that they learned and grew a lot. Fr. Paul said that these were the best letters of intent that he had read, so I am very proud of our students. Our leaders were great as well, so overall, I was very blessed with this year's confirmations group!

High School Youth Group - We will have a youth group once a month over the summer. June 14, July 19, and August 9th. Each night will be 7-9pm. Here is the outline:

June 14th – Flag Day games and Adoration

July 19th – Men's and Women's night (men will be led by Deacon Derek and Tom Kutcha, women lead by Andrea German and Bek Sharp. The women will attend devoted with the leaders!) I will be gone on this day on vacation!

August 9th – Power Point Party & Rosary

Summer Things – We will have 8 students and 4 adults come on the mission trip to Indiana. We will have 11 students and 4 adults for Steubenville! We also have 12 students attending the camp as leaders!

Please pray during the following dates:

June 25-30 – Catholic Youth Summer Camp

July 8-15 – Mission Trip to Huntingburg, IN

July 28-30 – Steubenville Conference

Written Report – Michael Lane, Sacramental Records Coordinator

Baptisms in June:

1 – June 4, 2023

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3 – June 10, 2023

7- June 18, 2023

Weddings in June:

One wedding on June 10, 2023

Brandon Delbow and Elaine Coughlin

Written Report – Claire Brostrom, Reach More Coordinator

- No report this month – on maternity leave.
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Written Report – Jessica Balzarini, Director of Parish Life

Parish Anniversary Party and Feast Day Celebration: This year St. John's will be celebrating our Parish Anniversary with Mass at 5:30 pm, picnic dinner at 6:15 pm in SJH, and DJ in the West Parking Lot. We will also be celebrating our Parish Feast at all the masses on June 24 and 25. The Knights of Columbus will host a waffle breakfast on Sunday morning. Our youth will receive a good hardy breakfast and be sent off with a blessing for Catholic Youth Summer Camp!

Synod Evangelization Team: Has finished the Archdiocesan wide School of Discipleship through the Archbishop Flynn Catechetical Institute. The final session was an entire day dedicated to being *Activated* as disciples. We heard Dr. Mary Healy speak about the Holy Spirit that set the whole room on fire! Part of the activation was time Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, praying for Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and prayer teams!

Written Report – Jill Fink, Director of Catechesis

Baptism: Continue to work with several families to have their older children baptized.

First Sacraments: Wrapped up with families on reception celebration pictures. Children invited to be a part of the Corpus Christi procession on Sunday, June 11 after the 10:30am Mass. Registration is open for next year at the early rate.

RCIC: Working with a family with two special needs young adults toward sacraments. Families interested in next year's sacramental needs should contact Jill.

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Becoming Catholic RCIA: We have three people signed up for next year. Finding sponsors for several of them.

Formation Parent Program: Several parents have signed up to be a part of a Core Team for the Parent Night program. Jill will start meeting with them in August. Jill and Jen are networking with other parishes who have adopted a small group model for parent ministry. Registration is out for next year.

Marriage Ministry: All our mentor couples are engaged couples. Several couples are preparing for convalidation. A new program of Beloved is being piloted.

Adult Ministry: Summer Adult Ministry will be a 6-week series entitled The Chosen on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30pm in room 206. Jill will lead this drop in event where participants will watch a portion of The Chosen depicting a different miracle or encounter, then read from scripture the passage, small group discussion and prayer experience.