

Faith Formation Board Meeting
October 7, 2025

In attendance: *Yoko Ambrosini, Diane Ugwu, Charlotte Bosold, Jessica Casselman, Juan Garcia, Gabriella Reznowski, Linea Johnson, Angela Nelson.*

Faith Formation Report. Angela shared numbers for the Faith Formation Program. This is the biggest year since Covid. Attendance in the classroom is much higher so far. Diane really appreciates being able to bring her children at the same time. The older groups are becoming quite large but not everyone attends on the same Sunday. 7th graders are sometimes wandering the hallway. Angela wonders about possibly starting a 6/7th group.

Adult education class—The material is very good and everyone participating seems to be enjoying it. Jessica C. says she is learning a lot. There was a question about moving it to the social hall so parents with little kids could participate while their children play? It could be awkward with coffee & donuts, but we may get a few more people to participate.

OCIA—15-ish people participating. Could we do something for those in the inquiry phase, especially those who respond in Spring? Our only group begins in Fall and is progressing to receive Sacraments. Can we do something to keep inquirers involved and connected? People to organize and lead is the biggest hurdle.

Other Faith Formation groups currently running at Sacred Heart--**SHARE** – a women's group that meets on Wednesdays at noon, use short term Bible studies with focused discussion questions. Easy to join in. **Women's retreat at St. Gertrude** in September went well. A weekend retreat with limited space for about fourteen. A **one-day Women's retreat** is coming up on Saturday, October 18th 9am – 2 pm. **Men's prayer group** meets early on Saturdays. They also organize an annual retreat.

Youth Group--Youth have met twice, about ten each time. Linea has seen a couple of new 7th graders, and a couple of older youth who have not participated since Covid. She's looking forward to a youth Mass in the fall, and encouraging youth to participate in different ministries. Once confirmed, high schoolers are qualified for any of the ministries. **Music?** Yes! Denise is willing to work with them. Diane shared the idea of a choir. Kids could also practice for a song at a mass. Youth have done music at youth Mass in the past, and Mayzie Patera filled in as cantor recently. Linea will encourage them to try new things.

Events. We've accumulated many events over the years, and we have trouble getting volunteers. Should we keep doing all of them? Some are not F.F. board specifically, but FF is highly involved. Could the heads of each organization meet to decide which group does what, and if any of the events need to be retired?

Welcoming newcomers—Diane suggested something to welcome and connect with new people better. Internationals need help orienting to our culture, especially winter. Dinners for 8 have worked in the past. There used to be a progressive dinner for new people. In recent years people seem less willing to attend events in private homes. Also sports, music, etc. during weekdays have become very high commitment. Father Steve has talked more than once about a welcoming committee.

It's important to keep welcoming new parishioners and help get them connected to the various groups and ministries. Parish BBQ in the fall and board game nights were attempts to connect with new parishioners, but not many new people came. International Harvest Fest drew many new families. If anyone has ideas for events or gatherings that may appeal to new parishioners, share them.

After discussing events, the board decided to make setting up the giving tree part of an advent wreath making event.

Christmas play – Need an adult(s) willing to lead and helpers to assist. Some are interested in changing the play up a bit. Get info to parents sooner (beginning of November, Angela & Ellie will do this). Look for a leader now.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. A Montessori approach to Faith Formation started in Rome by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi, now worldwide. CGS is being used for Faith Formation by other parishes in our diocese (4 parishes in Spokane, Coeur d'Alene). Requires a lot of training and time commitment. Leaders must do training to officially lead a CGS age group (ages 3-6, 6-9, 9-12). Training is offered in summer, or over weekends through the year. People can assist in classrooms without doing the training. An issue for those who don't have 80-90 hours to train. Churches who have implemented CGS have good results. Elizabeth, Jessica Eriamiatoe, and Angela will be attending training together at Spokane cathedral over beginning November 13, most is during school holiday long weekends.

ACTION POINTS:

ASSIGNED TO:

Add 6-7th grade FF class Sunday morning? Angela is considering for next semester

More for OCIA inquirers

Adult class in Social Hall?

(Could try it in November)

Music—Youth Choir or other

Meeting about events with leaders of groups

Related to above: Decide which events are FF

Find leader/s for Christmas Play

(Angela & Ellie)

Welcoming new people

Follow up next mtg.

Next meeting is November 4th at 7:00 pm