



Faith Formation & Youth Ministry – August/September 2016

Dreams:

Full parish of engaged intentional disciples

Lifelong, year round faith formation

Whole parish Collaboration and open communication around our Saint Kateri Mission and vision

Steps towards Dream:

YM Core Team – planning for Oct 10 Youth Ministry Kickoff for middle and high school. Service projects and Youth Group Style Gatherings and NCYC pilgrim preparations will begin in October

Adult Faith Formation Study Team – Met with Jodi and Gigi over the summer. Still pooling results and recommendations and will have them available soon.

Non Gathered resources –Jodi and Colleen compiled resources, made recommendations. Staff needs to confirm these choices and implement plan.

ALPHA – Ran successful Pilot this summer at the Library. Created quite a buzz in the Diocese and in our Parish. Will start the next 11week session Sept 29 – see more on Why ALPHA - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIHVR7zhUzY> and Four Principles of ALPHA - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pZd5zTtiuU>

Eyes on Christ – two of our Young Adults initiated Adoration and Faith Sharing for College Students and Young Professionals – we had an average of 7-10 people in attendance, and attracted young adults from across the Diocese (attendees invite friends)

Faith Formation – Met steadily all summer with families registering for faith formation. In this context, several parents have approached us about their desire to be confirmed or receive other sacraments.



CYO – We are trying to bring our CYO program into compliance with a Diocese requirement that 66% of the team is Saint Kateri Parishioners and/or School children. This has helped us to see how CYO is truly an evangelizing program. A number of people have chosen to formally register with the parish and get involved in faith formation. One family is now choosing to bring their son to receive the sacraments through the RCIA (he is 11).

Catechist Formation – We are working with our catechists and other volunteers to increase our communication, teamwork, and growth together as disciples. As a FF staff, we are making weekly commitments to help our catechists, depending on the needs/situation. We are holding catechist meetings every other month, in collaboration with Peace of Christ Parish, where we will explore catechist formation topics. We are also encouraging catechists to have individual meetings with FF staff members throughout the year.

Ministry Interns and Office Volunteers – Ian Staub finished his teaching assistant internship with us, (plus other office volunteers – Cathy Caruana)

Baptismal Ministry – we have met to continue working on improving our Baptismal Preparation experience and integration of our young families into the church community. We have had a variety of meetings and conversations with staff and volunteers to lead baptismal prep as well as volunteers in the baptismal accompaniment ministry. Fr Paul will be leading those who do the prep to a more unified Saint Kateri Process. Donna Moll will be working with the young adults who work to accompany the other young families at the day of baptism and help integrate them into the parish.

Broken Dreams:

Imperfect realization of new faith formation model – we are moving to a family/whole community centered model and aspects of the program are not fully realized. For example we want to begin and end with prayer as a whole community in order to build community and learn by doing about prayer practices; however the style of prayer we



were using was not as engaging as we would like it to be and had the unintended effect of discouraging people from attending Mass. We will collaborate with Sarah Mancini and Jean Grizard as well as catechists to plan more engaging communal prayer.

Unawareness of spiritual life – in discussions with parents (mostly mothers) during our open registration conversations, we were disheartened by the honest look at the (lack of) spiritual awareness and practice in some of our families. These are sincere good people who have not been evangelized and catechized even though they may even have been raised in the faith or even attended Catholic Schools.

Feeling spread too thin in department – We each have our areas of responsibility and we also collaborate and overlap. But at times we feel stretched.

NEEDS

More engaged intentional disciples in the parish to mentor our young people

Ministry Interns – to help mentor young people into ministry as well as support our programs here

Collaboration and communication with staff and volunteers in all programs that are related to lifelong faith formation and spiritual growth

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Programs

- **schedule for the upcoming year (see enclosed document)**