

## Transfiguration Parish Pastoral Council

Monday, January 22, 2007

### Formation Report

It seems as if it were a very long time ago since I sent a report to you folks regarding the Formation programs here at TOOL, . However it was only this past November that I last sent a report to the Council. I hope everyone had a great holiday time with family and friends.

During December all of our GIFT programs focused on our Jesse Tree project which helped everyone get ready for Christmas. Before we broke for the holidays, I had a prayer service in which each group presented their ornament for the tree, explained their symbol of the relative of Jesus, and then that group placed it on the tree. At the end of the prayer service (there was one for each program on Sundays & Wednesdays) we all blessed the tree. This is always a good project to do during Advent and I believe everyone benefits from it each year we do it.

On Saturday, January 20 we had our Honor Thy Child Safe Environment training here at TOOL for all those who work with children and youth in our formational programs. This is a national process which is put on locally by our Archdiocesan Office of Family Ministries. Since I am writing this report before that workshop takes place, I will not know the exact number who went to it until it actually happens this coming Saturday. However, I currently have commitments from 32 people from our parish who will be at the workshop on Saturday. There are another 10 folks from TOOL who attended this workshop at another time here in Louisville within the last two years. Along with this I submitted over 30 names (folks who help out with formational, music, and youth programs) for background checks with the state of Kentucky recently. I am happy to report that the results of those background checks overall were good. From what I saw on the reports I received, there were no serious issues we would have to address immediately with those who work with our children or youth.

Our First Eucharist process had its first parent/child session This past Sunday, January 21 at 1:00 pm in the Youth Center. This session in which the families (30 children in all) received the sacramental materials on the Eucharist. This first of three meetings formally

begins the entire process for those who will be a part of this sacramental experience this year. The work of the parents preparing their son or daughter for the reception of the Eucharist will culminate in their children receiving Jesus for the first time this April/May at our Sunday liturgies.

On February 7 I will have the third in a series of five gatherings this year for our middle school youth and their parents to come together and celebrate their faith as a family. The gathering in February will take place from 7-8:30 pm in the Lower Level of Church. The theme of the evening is entitled "Getting Ready for Lent: Our Jewish Roots/Christian Roots". The main emphasis of the evening will be on preparing everyone present for our upcoming Lenten celebrations through sign, symbol, and ritual. The presenter for this family gathering will be George Kaissieh who is the Pastoral Associate at the Cathedral of the Assumption. George and his family are originally from Israel and bring to us a wealth of knowledge and experience of Jesus' home land.

#### Adult Faith Formation Opportunities At TOOL In Coming Months

-Our newly revised 55 years and older group which began with its first gathering last October will meet again on Saturday, February 17 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm to take place in the Lower Level. Fr. Bernie Weber, CP will be with us to lead us in 2 presentations/discussions on the theme of healing entitled; "Healing Within and Healing of our Bodies". All of this will take place in the context that as disciples of Christ we are all in need of healing. There will be a small lunch that will be part of this event. Sign ups for this process will take place in late January, as well as in February in the Narthex.

-Our annual retreat for all women of the parish 18 years of age and older will take place on Saturday, March 10 from 9 am to 4 pm. The retreat will take place at Bresha Hall on the Ursuline Campus here in Louisville. Sr. Margaret Ann Hagan, OSU, will lead all the women in prayer and reflection as a means to deepening their relationship with Jesus during the upcoming Lenten season.

-There will be a retreat for all men of the area on Saturday, March 17 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm here at Transfiguration Church. The retreat was originally scheduled for early February but had to be changed to March due to the schedule of the retreat leader. The retreat will be conducted by Sal Della Bella who is the Director of Faith Formation for the Archdiocese of Louisville. This retreat is open to all men 18 years of age and older.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Sugrue

Director of Formation