

Transfiguration Parish Pastoral Council
Monday, October 16, 2006

Formation Report

Our GIFT programs began in September and by now they are all under way for the 2006-2007 catechetical year. At this time I want to give you a detailed report on the start of our GIFT programs for this year.

As I look back on the start of all of our GIFT programs for this year which began with a retreat for our catechists in late August at the Cathedral with other parishes from our Northeast Region 9 conducted by Mary Hynes and myself, I am pleased with what I have seen transpired thus far with the start of another catechetical year here at TOOL. In my opinion all the programs got off on the right foot and things seem to be going well whether it be in our Sunday morning programs, Wednesday programs, or in our First Reconciliation process. For the size of parish we are, I am pleasantly surprised every year on how many folks help out in so many different ways here, especially in the area of Formation. Yes, it would be nice to have more catechists help out, especially men. It would be great to have every family of the parish who have children to be involved in the programs in some way, shape, or form. However, that is not realistic in the crazy world we live in today with families being pulled in so many different directions. You deal with what God sends you. As you can see from the numbers below there are folks from the parish helping out in our programs and I am proud of that. That is quite a good number of people coming forward to be catechists, aides, youth helper, or assist in other areas of formation in our parish and share their faith with others for the good of everyone here. When we break out that number below, you will see that there are 36 folks who teach or help out in the programs on a regular basis. When you look at those numbers closer you will see that there are 6 adult men, 9 youth (4 guys & 5 gals), and 14 women who are teaching in our GIFT programs on a weekly basis. Also within that over all number of 35 there are 5 other folks who I can call on to be substitute catechists, as well as 2 others who act as floaters during the Sun morn programs.

For members who might be new to the parish, as well as to the Pastoral Council, I would like to explain when and where our GIFT programs take place. Our programs are as follows: We have 2 GIFT programs (preschool through grade 5) on Sunday mornings at 8:45 & 10:45 am that meet in the Lower Level; We have 2 GIFT programs on Wednesdays at 4:15 pm (Preschool-grade 5) & at 7:00 pm (Middle school youth-grades 6-8) which meet on parish grounds; We also have a home study process for those who cannot come to any of the other programs. We also have a First Reconciliation/First Eucharist process every year that meets for parent/child sessions a couple of times during each sacramental process in the Youth Center.

Total number of children/youth in GIFT programs for 2006-2007 as of 10/8/06

Sunday Morning GIFT Programs
8:45 am - 35, 10:45 am - 70

Wednesday GIFT Programs
4:15 pm – 10, 7:00 pm - 28

Home Study Process
There are 7 youth in this process.

Total no. of youth in GIFT programs for 06-07 catechetical year as of 10/8/06 - 150

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist process - 30 candidates

RCIY process - 6 high school youth needing sacraments; 2 for all sacraments of initiation, 1 for confirmation, & 3 for reconciliation

RCIA process for adults - 3 candidates

Catechists/Aides teaching in our GIFT programs for the current catechetical year. They are as follows:

-Sunday Morning Process @ 8:45 am (Preschool-Grade 5); Gary & Carol George, Preschool, David George-youth aide, Preschool, John Gallagher, Preschool, Catherine Gallagher-youth aide, Preschool, Brittany McGill-youth catechist, K, Ginny Schmitt-youth aide, K, Lori Stuart, 1st, Monique Grendi, 2nd, Pat Hutnick, 3^{rd/4th/5th}

-Sunday Morning Process @ 10:45 am (Preschool-Grade 5); Pat & Leslie King, Presch, Katie White-youth aide, Preschool, Steve Watkins, K, Catelyn Bottom-youth aide, K, Austin Major-youth aide, K, Leslie Peak, 1^{st/2nd}, Jenifer Danehy-aide, 1^{st/2nd}, Justin Wuetcher-youth aide, 1^{st/2nd}, Jared Bottom-youth aide, 1^{st/2nd}, Randy Greene, 3rd, Bob Duffy, 4th, Cleo Moore, 5th

Ed Sugrue is a youth helper on Sunday mornings and Susanna Sugrue is a floater during our Sunday morning programs helping the catechists wherever she can be of assistance.

-Wednesday Afternoon Process, 4:15-5:15 pm (Preschool-Grade 5); Raquel Stekardis & Tracey Shaw

Wednesday Evening GIFT Process, 7:00-8:15 pm (Middle School Youth; Grades 6-8)
Anne Luvisi, 6th, Karla Strobl, 7th, Maureen Atchison, 8th, John Underwood, YM

--Substitute catechists; David & Dacia Jackel, Sun Morn GIFT @ 10:45 am,
Cindy Liston, Sun Morn GIFT @ 10:45 am, Stacey Schmitt, Wed eve GIFT 8th grade,
Allison Hafner, Sun morn GIFT 8:45 am

-First Reconciliation/Eucharist process, Leslie Peak, Susanna Sugrue, Sheri Tabor, Cindy Liston

-Formation Committee; Maureen Atchison, Leslie Peak, Karla Strobl

Our First Reconciliation process for this year began in late September with a parent/child meeting. There are 30 children in that process who will be making their First Reconciliation/First Eucharist this year here at our parish. At the Sunday liturgies on October 15 we recognized these families as being part of this process with a welcoming ritual. In the afternoon of Oct 15 I had another parent/child gathering to get the families ready for the celebration of the sacrament which will take place on Saturday, December 2 at 1:30 pm.

Our annual Blessing of Animals prayer service took place on October 4 with our middle school youth participating in the various parts of the service. It went well and we had around 35 animals present for the service. This is always a fun October activity for all who partake in it. After the prayer service was over the youth went into the Lower Level for a lesson on how we can be better stewards of God's gifts to us in the environment that surrounds us on a daily basis. This lesson was conducted by Bridgette Munich of our parish who is a teacher at St. Francis of the Fields school, as well as a volunteer helper at our local zoo.

This year I decided to start up again a ministry to our mature members (those 55 and older) here at our parish. It will take place on Saturday, October 28 from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm in the Lower Level. Bob Mueller from Hospice will come and speak to the group. I will let you know how the day goes.

Last year I was involved in a Spirituality/Discipleship certification with the Ministry Institute with the Archdiocese which went very well for me. I liked that so much I decided to go back again for another certification this year. This time around I am involved in the Parish Administration specialization. This specialization involves looking at the administration of parishes from a variety of levels.

That is all I have for you at this time. I hope you have a productive meeting.

Take care and have a great day.

Peace and God Bless,

Bob Sugrue
Director of Formation