

St. Margaret Mary/Blessed Savior Faith Formation
Listening Sessions - September 18 & 19, 2017
Submitted by Director of Faith Formation Dave Liccione

September 18 Meeting at Blessed Savior - 18 People Attending

September 19 Meeting at St. Margaret Mary – 12 People Attending

30 People Total- 1 Young Man in his 20s, 1 mother of a Faith Formation child, 1 woman in her 40s who will be a Catechist, and all other people 60 plus years old and up.

Factors to Consider

- **Two Different Parishes Must Share One Faith Formation Program**
- **Compromise and Cooperation Needed**
- **Pastors would like both parishes to be utilized...not have all classes at one location.**
- **Natural Breakdown...K4 to Grade 6 Meet at Blessed Savior and Grades 7 to 11 meet at St. Margaret Mary**
- **Mass times at the two parishes make it impossible, for now, to have classes on Sunday mornings.**

Topics/Issues Discussed and Put to a Vote

How many times per month should classes meet? Twice or three times?

Comments- “It depends on the length of the class.” “It depends on their age.” “Classes should be a minimum of 75 minutes.” “Older kids should meet fewer times per month than younger ones because of work, school, sports, activities, etc.” “Older kids’ classes should last longer so they can explore things more deeply. If you get engaged, you don’t want to cut it short.” “Kids should meet for a couple of hours and then have it lead into Mass.” “Class should be two hours tops to keep their attention and interest.” “Younger kids should meet more often but for shorter class durations.”

Vote- All Grades Meet Three Times Per Month

7 For 19 Against 4 Abstain/No Preference

Vote- Younger Kids Meet Three Times Per Month for Shorter Periods. Older Kids Meet Twice Per Month for Longer Periods.

18 For 9 Against 3 Abstain/No Preference

Curriculum- The Finding God and Alive in Christ Series were passed around. Both are solid. One person commented that the Finding God series was a bit dated. One person, who will be a Catechist, expressed strong support for the Alive in Christ series. Otherwise, there was no real feedback or strong opinion expressed in this area. We will use the Chosen series for Confirmation. It is approved by the USCCB and is the preference of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Office of Catechesis.

No formal vote taken. No consensus or strong opinion. Defer decision to the Director of Faith Formation regarding books.

Single Grade Classrooms or Combined Grade Classrooms?

“Single grade classroom is ideal.” “2nd and 11th Grades, Sacramental years, will be single grade classes and not combined with another grade regardless.” “Do the 2nd Grade Sacramental books have parental involvement/companion material?” “Will classes be encouraged to attend Mass at either or both parishes?” “Special events, beyond or in addition to class, will be shared by both parishes. The first event, an introductory prayer service, will be held at St. Margaret Mary. The next event will be held at Blessed Savior and will alternate thereafter.” “Everything will be advertised at both sites using different mediums...pulpit announcements, bulletin articles/ads, website, Facebook, flyers/posters, etc...”

No vote taken on this. Consensus is that separate grade levels are preferable but depend upon enrollment numbers. Determination of single or combined grade classes will be made after two week enrollment/registration period.

Best Days and Times to Have Class?

“Older kids are particularly busy.” “Kids have school work, clubs and school sports, jobs, etc.” “Kids are so scheduled and their activities structured nowadays.” “Sunday night is better for older kids because they don’t HAVE to do homework...or they can schedule their work around class.” “Older kids need more time per class so that they can become comfortable and then open up in discussions.” High school kids should have two hour classes twice per month.” “Have food available.” Have class and then end with Mass.” “Get kids involved in Mass roles....younger kids at Blessed Savior Mass on Saturday at 4PM and older students at St. Margaret Mary Mass on Saturday at 5PM” “We need to reach the parents and talk about ‘why’ we are doing what we do and why it is important. Put a panel of students and parents together to talk about why faith, Mass, and Catechism are important and meaningful.” “Devotional Church v. Missional Church...Need to be a little of both.”

Vote- Grades K4 Through 6th- Meet on Mid-Week Early Evening or on a Weekend?

14 for Mid-Week 12 for Weekend 4 Abstain/No Preference

Vote- Grades 7th Through 11th Meet on Mid-Week Early Evening or on a Weekend?

4 Meet Mid-Week 18 Meet on Sunday Evening 8 Abstain/No Preference

Vote- If Classes Were Held on a Weekend, would you prefer Saturday Leading Into a Mass or Sunday Evening Apart From Mass?

Meet Saturday Afternoon Leading Into Mass 11

Meet Sunday Apart From Mass 14
Abstain/No Preference 5

Other Open Floor Comments/Observations

- **Pastoral Council Comment... “What about adult formation?”**
- **“We should inform each other using the bulletins and announcements and pray for the young children.”**
- **“What about formation of Catechists?” (All will be Safeguard trained. All will be interviewed and consulted ahead of time. Two Catechists will be in each classroom. Ongoing formation opportunities will be provided or made available. There will be regular daily or weekly communication via e-mail, phone, and personal conversations. All classes/teachers will be observed and evaluation written.)**
- **“MUHS, DHSA, Cardinal Stritch students could help serve as volunteers.”**
- **“There are at least eight nuns who attend Mass at Blessed Savior and one at St. Margaret Mary. Perhaps they would be willing to lead adult education presentations or occasional parent Catechetical sessions.”**
- **“We need food at the classes as a way to attract kids and get them to buy in...feed body, mind, soul, and separate.”**
- **RCIA...Judy Adrian volunteered to help coordinate this if there are any candidates from either parish.**
- **Evangelization efforts...We could reach out to the kids in the five grade schools and get them and their families into the parishes by offering to have them perform a school activity or play after Mass. The family would attend and would be able to observe/participate in a Mass and following fellowship reception.**
- **“Get the data on the number and ages of the children at the parishes through the parish office.”**

Based on the listening sessions, consulting with parish staff members with a knowledge of history of the two churches, including Fathers Romanus and Barrett, and based on personal experience and discernment as well, I recommend that we go with the Alive in Christ series for the younger students and the Chosen series for Confirmands. Classes should be held on Wednesday evening at Blessed Savior three times per month for Grades K4-Grade 6th from 6PM-7:15PM and Grades 7th-11th should meet at St. Margaret Mary twice per month on Sunday evenings from 6PM-8PM.