

Catholic Education/Formation Committee (CFC)

Minute Summary for 9 May 2023

01) Prayer – Marked Easter 5

02) Per the Diocesan Campaign, *Inspired by the Spirit*, our third case statement . . . Youth Ministry and Youth Minister . . . Developing a Vision.

A. The committee reviewed the concept of Youth Ministry per a document of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and embraced the defined goals of the document: 1) to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today., 2) To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community, 3) to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

B. A young adult was invited to comment on his question, “If you were back at St. Mark’s and going through your high school years, what could a youth minister do to help you stay engaged?”

D. The preliminary review of the above is that 1) catechetics/faith formation sets the foundation but 2) junior and high school students ask to build relationships, create Church, community and have a place and time for “religious” conversation and conversation in a milieu that respects their point on their faith journey, and 3) there is a desire to serve the parish and community.

E. This discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

F. A digest of the document of the USCB *Principles of Youth Ministry, Renewing the Vision Parts 1-4* containing the above-mentioned goals, themes, and components is available for review in the parish offices. The comments of the young adult are also available.

05) Newman Catholic Schools (NCS) Expansion of the 4 K Program at NCS St Mark. Noted is that if two rooms are required for the 4 K Program, a number of room reconfigurations will be required.

06) Religious Education/Faith Formation. 1) 12 young adults of the parish will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on 21 May. 2) The catechetical year closed with a communal prayer celebrating the Feast of Saint Mark. 3) Young adults of the parish are invited to participate in NCIS (Neighborhood Catholics in Service) and a trip for grades 6-12 to Noah’s Ark in the Dells.

07) NCS St Mark. 1) The faculty and staff are preparing to the self-study for renewal of accreditation by the Wisconsin Catholic Schools Association and the Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Association. All schools and child development centers will be involved in the self-study. The accreditation is valid for seven years. 2) The third through fifth-grade students have completed the Forward Exam developed by the Department of Education of the State of Wisconsin.

08) Directed to the Parish Pastoral or Parish Finance Councils is these minutes to facilitate intra-parish communications.

09) Future discussion: Catholic Identity . . . what constitutes this identity in today’s world?