

Catholic Education/Formation Committee (CFC)

Minute Summary for 9 March 2021

- 01) Prayer marked the third week of Lent.
- 02) The conversation regarding chapter 1 of Pope Francis' Encyclical, *On Fraternity and Social Friendship*. . . quoted notes: 1) It seemed that human kind had learned lessons from two world wars but there is a regression in this regard. Cooperation is being replaced by extremis, short-sightedness and aggressive nationalism. 2) We do not teach the lessons of history. 3) The current pandemic has helped to “recover our concern for human beings.” 4) Social aggression has grown exponentially online and forms networked of fanatics resulting in defamation and slander. 5) Attentive listening is rare today; the online platforms allow users to simply ‘dislike’ any idea or person they wish. This is now how wisdom grows. 5) Some first-world nations are good model for developing countries and should be assisted to grow in their own way. A problem in developing countries is that a wealthy minority often shun what native people think. 6) Pathways of hope are emerging because of the pandemic, People realize that their lives are interwoven.
- 03) Newman Catholic Schools Education Commission Meeting the points under number 5 of the 19 January minutes were discussed for clarification regarding “Are we Catholic enough?”
 1. No. We don't promote our values (i.e. prolife)
 2. Suggested talks/seminars for parents and teachers to support values/beliefs
 3. Faith doesn't permeate across the curriculum; this seems to vary between grade levels. This is looked for by principals when observing classes
 4. Students who live their faith are a minority in the school
 5. WPCP (Wisconsin Parental Choice Program) changes why families are in school (may not be for faith-based education)
 6. The service component is strong
 7. How do we equip our students at the upper levels to respond to current events?
 8. How do we integrate (MLK (Martin Luther King) Day, for example)
 9. The more important question may be “How Christian are we?” vs “How Catholic are we?”
 10. What makes a school Catholic?
 - a. Individuals/families with strong faith
 - b. Important to support families to integrate faith in the home
 - c. Families – homes – teachers' faith are core
- 04) NCS: Saint Mark. The registration number for 2021-22 academic year at this time offer numbers that are considered good for PreK, 4K and Kindergarten. The other grades are consistent with the current year. Faculty members and staff are in the COVID-19 vaccination circle.
- 05) Catechetics/Faith Formation. 1) A virtual middle school youth rally (for parish members in catechesis and Newman Catholic Schools) is scheduled for 14 April. 2) A retreat for parish members preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation is scheduled for 14 March. Bishop Callahan has granted faculties to pastors to celebrate the sacrament in the parishes. 3) The DRE has written family packets for the observation of the season of Lent and for parish members in catechesis in grades 1-8. 3) Parents and their children (in catechesis and NCS: Saint Mark) who are preparing to celebrate the sacrament of eucharist have received the appropriate catechetical materials. 4) An enrichment session scheduled for catechists and parish leaders on the ABC's of ministering to Gen Z Families.