



CCSB

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

CALLED TO INSPIRE, TRANSFORM, GROW IN CHRIST & EVANGELIZE

**REPORT TO CCSB PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
October 20th, 2009**

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OVERVIEW

In light of our parish mission statement, this commission will meet the needs of our faith community through Parish-sponsored and Archdiocesan-sponsored offerings that focus on:

- Evangelization,
- Spirituality,
- Education and
- Lifelong Faith Formation

We believe that each one of us is called to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and is called to share in his mission. As Catholic Christians we must be:

1. Mature in faith and
2. Well-equipped to share the Gospel message, promoting it in every gathering, in every place of work, and in every public forum.

We must be women and men of prayer whose faith is alive and vital, grounded in a deep commitment to the person and message of Jesus Christ.

Adult Faith Formation occurs in many settings – both formal and informal. The teachings of our tradition and Catholic faith are transmitted at Mass, in classrooms, in halls and other settings wherever we gather for conversation, discussions and also in prayer.

We are all called to transmit the faith with special responsibility given to pastors and/or his delegates to inform, form and transform individuals into disciples.

As the Adult Faith Formation Commission, we are responsible for establishing and maintaining programs that encourage and support disciples on their lifelong journey of faith. Focusing on the short and long-term goals of this commission we seek to:

- a. Increase the knowledge of the Catholic Christian faith for all members
- b. Support full and active liturgical participation by all
- c. Participate in the moral formation of Catholics
- d. Provide informational, formational, and transformational experiences to all
- e. Support communal participation by all in the faith community
- f. Help develop a missionary spirit bringing Gospel values to others in the world

CCSB ADULT FAITH FORMATION MISSION

Focusing on the short and long-term goals, the Adult Faith Formation commission seeks to:

- Increase the knowledge of our Catholic Christian faith for all members of the faith community
- Support full and active liturgical participation by all
- Participate in the moral formation of Catholics
- Provide informational, formational, and transformational experiences to all
- Support communal participation by all in the faith community
- Help to develop a missionary spirit bringing Gospel values to others in the world

AFF RESPONSES TO PASTORAL PLANNING DAY INITIATIVES

Goal #3: Lifelong Participation

- Understand life stages and address spiritual needs for each sub-group of the parish;
- To allow lifelong participation for all individuals;
- To inform/form/transform all into disciples.

1. Planning Day Recommendation: Engage Life Stage Consultant

At the present time we have a pastoral staff with approximately 75+ years experience in parish ministry. With backgrounds in theology, education, psychology, pastoral ministry, etc., the current pastoral staff has more than an adequate understanding and firsthand experiences working with individuals across the lifespan where engaging an outside consultant seems unnecessary at the present time.

Some examples of current "lifelong faith formation" or "life stage" participation: Baptism Preparation Sessions, Marriage Preparation, Adult Confirmation Programs, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Religious Education for pre-K thru Confirmation, Scripture Study, Book Club, Bereavement Ministry, newly formed Young Adult Ministry, etc.

Some hopes for the future include: Men's Spirituality Group, Youth Ministry, Mom's Group, further development of Speaker Series and follow up program to ARISE.

2. Planning Day Recommendations: Additional Support

Needs and Assessment

A tool to assess the needs and desires of parishioners would be the first step to plan for future adult faith formation opportunities. Something as simple as a postcard to complete, or an online form, or some other device to hear from the faithful as to their needs would be a welcome piece to planning for short and long-term needs.

Demographics

Learn what other parishes/churches are doing. More and more parishes will be collaborating with neighboring parishes, for CCSB, this means the four other parishes of Newton and the two Wellesley parishes. Plans are already in the works to communicate better with these parishes. We would like to develop a web page so parishioners will know of offerings not only within the parish but beyond the parish as well. As stated, no parish can be all things to all people. With 7 parishes in our collaborative, we need to continue to improve upon the manner in which we plan and communicate.

Focus group/collect data to understand needs

Focus groups can be a helpful tool along with a short survey. It is important to have communication and collaboration among focus group leaders, pastoral staff members, pastoral council, commissions and others. We envision hearing directly from parishioners of their needs with regard to lifelong faith formation so that we might develop short and long-term plans.

Form new commission/committee

At the present time we don't see a need to create a new commission or committee. We are charged with the responsibility of adult faith formation and we embrace this opportunity to serve the formational

needs of all. We are encouraging better representation from the Young Adult population among current commissions and committees, and that Young Adults become more active. We continue to invite individuals to be part of the commission.

3. Planning Day Recommendations: Develop Programs and Speakers

We have already offered the following to parishioners...Lenten and Advent Speaker Series, Questions of Faith with the Pastor, Faithful Citizenship Presentation – The Presidential Election of 2008, A Parish Retreat, ARISE: Together In Christ, Adult Confirmation Classes, Annulment Information Night, Scripture Study, RCIA, A Catholic Book Club, Protecting God's Children – Safe Environment Workshops, CCSB Movie Night, and more.

We have brought in such speakers such as Tom Groome, Jayme Wolfe Stuart, Tom Massaro, SJ, Jim Keenan, SJ, Bishop Hennessey, Catherine Cornille, and many others. We have plans for Advent 2009 that includes Sr. Meg Guider, OSF and Sr. Dorothea Massuret, CSJ, and for Lent 2010, Rev. David Couturier and Father Bill Clark.

We envision a day when the 7 parishes of the Newton-Wellesley Collaborative will plan a calendar that allows the Catholics of this broader faith community to participate in a variety of experiences that fosters lifelong faith formation.

4. Planning Day Recommendation: Retreats for Different Subgroups

While no parish can do it all, we continue to advertise retreats for men and women in the area. CURSILLO retreats have been advertised and attended by parishioners in the past and we will continue to do so. It has been suggested that we offer a men's and women's retreat at the parish and we'll explore our options for all subgroups of the parish. ARISE will be training people in 2010 to offer parish retreats. We hosted a retreat for the parish in Advent of 2008 that featured spiritual talks, an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of reconciliation, and the celebration of the Eucharist. We continue to examine spiritual and formational experiences that would work best for our faith community.

5. Planning Day Recommendation: Marriage Encounter Program

Again, this is typically done on a regional level and we'll continue to communicate when these events take place.

6. Planning Day Recommendation: Informational Workshops for Parents

This is something to explore further with the DRE and the Religious Education Board. We envision a program that could meet before and/or after classes on Sundays and Mondays that could enrich the lives of today's busy families. In collaboration with the DRE we will explore our options.

7. Planning Day Recommendation: Afternoon of Reflection Ending with Mass

This is an option we are offering for Advent with the celebration of Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration and ending with a Marian Reflection – Sr. Dorothea Massuret, CSJ, will be offering the talk/reflection.

8. Planning Day Recommendation: 12-Steps Programs/ALANON/ALATEEN

Like most, if not all, support groups, individuals seeking support from peers will seek out another parish where they can be anonymous participants. We see this often with individuals going through marital separation and divorce. We should be communicating where such groups meet and support young people dealing with a variety of addictions.

9. Planning Day Recommendation: Theology on Tap

This has been in the works for some time. There are several groups in the metro-west area. In the early days of this program it was housed in parishes – a church hall, a rectory, etc. There is a desire to return to that type of setting and we are already exploring options. We have had an initial Young Adult gathering as reported at last month's PPC meeting. We need a "young adult" to come forward to take on the responsibility for this ministry. We continue to recruit individuals for such opportunities in the parish.

10. Planning Day Recommendation: Men's Spirituality Group

A pastoral staff member is exploring this already. Plans are underway to form a group for Spring 2010.

11. Planning Day Recommendation: Mothers & Playgroups

As we see an increasing number of young families with children, mothers and playgroups faith sharing programs will be considered. Someone from the parish needs to be identified/or step forward to lead this important ministry.

12. Planning Day Recommendation: Single Parent Support

In collaboration with other secular agencies, this is certainly another segment of the faith community that needs our support.

13. Planning Day Recommendation: Adult Catechesis Programs

This, perhaps, is the number one area needing to be addressed both short-term and long-term! We are already looking at formal programs to offer parishioners opportunities to grow in their Catholic faith. Although we'd like a Needs Assessment to truly honor the desire of parishioners, we can assume that programs highlighting Liturgy, Sacraments, Church History, Saints, St. Mary mother of God, The Trinity, and other common topics, could be offered in the next calendar year.

CCSB ADULT FAITH FORMATION - SHORT AND LONG TERM GOALS

SHORT-TERM GOALS (6 to 12 mo)

- Maintain current programs such as ARISE, Lenten & Advent Speaker Series, Book Club, Scriptures Study, Ask the Pastor Series, CCSB Movie Night ,Miraculous Medal Novena prayer, etc.
- Increase membership of the commission to at least 8 members to include Young Adults and other segments of the parish as well.
- Research the best method to conduct a Needs Assessment in the coming year.
- Continue to explore ways in which to collaborate with the 7 area parishes.
- Communicate what the Adult Faith Formation Commission offers to the parish through parish bulletin, web site, FACEBOOK, etc.
- Create ways in which the commission can collaborate with other parish commissions, councils & committees.
- Explore options for on-going Adult Faith Formation Programs for the coming year.

MID-RANGE GOALS (1-2 yr)

- Offer a Young Adult Ministry to 21-40 year olds featuring a variety of social, formational and spiritual events for young adults to gather.
- Offer a Men's Spirituality Group to the men of the parish.
- Develop from the Needs Assessment a Faith Formation Plan for the CCSB community.
- Examine ways in which Adult Faith Formation can support on-going faith development for families in the Religious Ed. Program.
- Examine other education, spiritual and formational programs to follow ARISE in 2010.
- Continue to meet with other parishes from the Newton-Wellesley Collaborative to plan for future needs with regard to faith formation in the region.

LONG-TERM GOALS
(2 – 5 yr)

- Collaborate with one another in the parish and the region as we seek to offer opportunities for all to be ***informed, formed*** and ***transformed*** into disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Offer on-going formal programs to all members of the CCSB faith community and Catholics of the Newton-Wellesley Collaborative.
- Continue to serve the Catholics of the region while constantly reviewing our purpose, vision, mission and goals.

Summary Table of Short/Long Term Goals follows.

CCSB ADULT FAITH FORMATION GOALS

SHORT-TERM GOALS (6 mos. to 12 mos.)	MID-RANGE GOALS (1-2 yr.)	LONG-TERM GOALS (2 – 5 yr.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain current programs such as ARISE, Lenten & Advent Speaker Series, Book Club, Scripture Study, Ask the Pastor Series, CCSB Movie Night, Miraculous Medal Novena prayer, etc. • Increase membership of the commission to at least 8 members to include Young Adults and other segments of the parish as well. • Research the best method to conduct a <i>Needs Assessment</i> in the coming year. • Continue to explore ways in which to collaborate with the 7 area parishes. • Communicate what the Adult Faith Formation Commission offers to the parish through parish bulletin, web site, FACEBOOK, etc. • Create ways in which the commission can collaborate with other parish commissions, councils and committees. • Explore options for an on-going Adult Faith Formation Programs for the coming year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer a Young Adult Ministry to 21-40 year olds featuring a variety of social, formational and spiritual events for young adults to gather. • Offer a Men’s Spirituality Group to the men of the parish. • Develop from the Needs Assessment a Faith Formation Plan for the CCSB community. • Examine ways in which Adult Faith Formation can support on-going faith development for families in the Religious Ed. Program. • Examine other education, spiritual and formational programs to follow ARISE in 2010. • Continue to meet with other parishes from the Newton-Wellesley Collaborative to plan for future needs with regard to faith formation in the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with one another in the parish and the region as we seek to offer opportunities for all to be <i>informed, formed</i> and <i>transformed</i> into disciples of Jesus Christ. • Offer on-going formal programs to all members of the CCSB faith community and Catholics of the Newton-Wellesley Collaborative. • Continue to serve the Catholics of the region while constantly reviewing our purpose, vision, mission and goals.