

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL

June 14, 2010

Following is a brief description of recent Education Committee programs and activities and plans for the future.

PROGRAMS SINCE SEPTEMBER 2009

The Role of the Laity in the Church-Fall 2009

The committee presented a three part series that addressed this issue, Members of the Saint Joseph College faculty presented material and led the discussions.

Advent Series

The Education Committee presented a two-part Advent series. On Monday evening November 30, Fr. Moran spoke about the infancy narratives of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

On Monday evening Dec. 7, Brenda McLaughlin, spoke about her experience with the *Ignatian* practice of the “*Examen*” and facilitated a guided meditation.

Lent Program 2010

The education committee presented a three- part program for Lent beginning on Monday, March 16, followed by a session on Monday, March 22, and the final session on Tuesday, March 30. The program focused on certain portions of the passion narrative by St. Mark and used *Lectio Divina*. Father Moran, John Daly, and Ellen Brown each led one of the sessions.

DISTRIBUTION OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

The committee distributed around 1,000 booklets during the past 12 months.

Little Blue Book

The Education Committee distributed 200 copies of “LITTLE BLUE BOOK” for Advent and Christmas.

Little Black Book for Lent

The Education Committee distributed 200 copies of the “LITTLE BLACK BOOK” for Lent.

Little White Book for Easter

The Education Committee distributed 200 copies of the “LITTLE BLACK BOOK” for Lent and 200 copies of the Little White Book for the Easter Season.

Living Faith

The committee distributed 400 copies of Living Faith, during the past year, 100 every three months. Living Faith is a daily Catholic meditation for each season of the year. The next distribution will be toward the end of June and will cover the three-month period June, July and August.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

The Education Committee offered an Advent wreath making opportunity after the 10:30 mass the first weekend of Advent. It is also made available Advent candles after each mass that day.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPCOMING PROGRAMS

During June and July the committee will organize and facilitate the offering of a 30-week faith enrichment program called ***Just Faith*** focused on bible study and Church teachings on social justice.

During July the committee will present a summer program that focuses on the lives of certain saints. The program is tentatively scheduled for three consecutive Mondays during July – July 12, 19, and 26 in our parish center.

The committee has begun planning for our Fall /Advent programs. Possible ideas include the writings of Isaiah, the concept of choosing life, or some other related materials.

The committee discussed the desirability of expanding committee membership. The committee decided that each member would present a name or names at our next meeting of possible new members.

The committee will publish a recommended summer reading list during June.

The committee will co-sponsor a retreat led by Brother Loughlan Sofield S.T. during April of 2011 with the other West Hartford Catholic Churches. The West Hartford Catholic Adult Enrichment Team is coordinating the program.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES- 2008- SPRING OF 2009

During March, the committee sponsored a three part program that focused on the Sermon on the Mount and used a traditional Christian method called "lectio divina," which involves listening to the word of God, contemplating it in silence, and sharing it with others, offered on three consecutive Mondays in March. Father Ed Moran and Professor Nancy Billias of Saint Joseph College led the program.

In February, it co-sponsored with other Catholic Churches in West Hartford, a play called *Haunted By God: The Life Of Dorothy Day*, a moving dramatic portrait of one of the most outspoken and influential American Catholics of the 20th century. Dorothy Day was a powerful woman who co-founded the Catholic Worker movement. Today there are over 100 Catholic Worker Houses in the U.S. and around the world including St. Martin de Porres House right here in Hartford, CT. All profits from the play were donated to the St. Martin de Porres House.

In March, it sponsored a Spiritual Media Workshop based on the Academy Award nominated short film: "*Most*" (*The Bridge*) facilitated by Carole Donabedian, a member of the Education Committee, a Spiritual Life Coach, and a Masters Degree student at Boston College School of Theology.

In December, it held the annual Advent Wreath Making Sunday on the first Sunday of Advent, December 2, in the parish center. This event appeals particularly to families but was open to all parishioners.

During Advent, Lent, and Easter- it distributed to parishioners nearly 600 books of daily meditations for Advent, Lent, and the Easter season.

November 2008, it sponsored a program by Father William Barry S.J., the author of *A Friendship Like No Other: Experiencing God's Amazing Embrace*, who spoke about the relationship we can have with the Lord.

The committee distributed to parishioners every three months, 100

copies of Living Faith, a daily meditation booklet that is based on the readings each day at Mass.

The Committee co-sponsored with two other West Hartford Catholic Churches a program about inviting inactive Catholics back into the Church led by Carrie Kemp, author of *Catholics Can Come Home Again: A Blueprint for Developing a Welcoming Parish and Helping Inactive Catholics Return to the Church*.