

CALLED TO BE MISSIONARY DISCIPLES; CALLED TO SERVE

A PLAN FOR ADULT FAITH FORMATION

In his recent bulletin reflections, Father Joseph Mary has been challenging us to think about our attitude toward growing in our faith and recognizing that a dynamic, living, evangelizing Church requires that its members become mature in our faith; to be *“transformed in the renewing our your mind, that you may prove what is good and acceptable and the perfect will of God.”* (Heb. 2:12)

To that end, the Christian Formation Committee has spent several months evaluating the Adult Formation offerings here at Holy Comforter in order to create an ongoing plan for adult formation. After reviewing the results of the survey parishioners completed a few months ago, the committee identified specific goals and strategies to ensure that a variety of opportunities are provided that meet the wide range of interests and needs of all members of our church family.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE:

Many adult formation opportunities have been offered in the past 9 months:

Book Studies:

- Study of *Amoris Laetitia – The Joy of the Gospel*

Speakers:

- Hugh Owen – “Marriage Made in Heaven”
- Patricia McAdams – “St. Elizabeth of the Trinity”
- Nicole Flores – “Called to Serve? Women Deacons in the Catholic Church”
- “Food and Faith”- Michael Reilly
- “Our Lady of Fatima” (her story and her plan for peace) - Patricia McAdams

Discussion Groups:

- Neighborhood Small Group Meeting
- “Solidarity” – e-learning course and discussion

Family Catechesis:

- Lent activities for families
- Family Rosary-Making Event

Intergenerational Events:

- Intergenerational Soup Supper during Lent
- Intergenerational Service Project for UVA Hospitality House
- Resource library updated

Current Offerings:

- Bible study on the Gospel of Mark
- John Bugbee book study – *Dante’s Inferno*

PROPOSED OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Lectures and speakers**
 - End of life issues – Hospice and others
 - Guidelines for caretakers
- **Scripture and Tradition**
 - Weekly Sunday readings discussions
 - Bishop Barron DVD study of Catholicism
 - Family Advent Activities
- **Personal relationship with Christ**
 - Q&A on various questions of faith (facilitated)
- **Study for Moms**
 - *Walking With a Purpose* – Lisa Brenninkmeyer
 - “Momnipotent: Finding Peace, Balance, and Joy in your Vocation as a mother (DVD Series)
- **Prayer**
 - Presentation on prayer forms
- **Understanding of the liturgy**
 - “Biblical Walk Through the Mass” DVD series
 - Becoming One Body, One Spirit with Christ (DVD series on the Eucharist)
- **Continue/Expand neighborhood small groups** to address current topics and key questions
- **Intergenerational Service Activity**
- **Field trip/pilgrimage**
- **Small group discussion/support groups** for spiritual growth
- Support for **couples preparing for marriage and newlyweds**

WHAT YOU CAN DO: GET INVOLVED!

While a Coordinator for Religious Education can provide resources, materials, and supervision, these opportunities cannot be facilitated by one person alone. Critical to the success of this vision are **VOLUNTEERS**. Our parish is blessed with many very capable and knowledgeable individuals whose gifts would contribute to the spiritual growth of specific groups of people.

- Offer to be a facilitator for one of these programs
- Offer your area of expertise as a presenter
- Open your home to a neighborhood or peer-group study/discussion
- Offer to help with babysitting
- Propose an activity that you think would be of interest to others

Please contact Sue Dougherty at cre@holyccomforterparish.org or 434-295-6559 to offer your help or suggestions.