

## Religious Education Program

### Parish Council Report

Aug. 2018

The Religious Education Bible Camp for June 25-29th 2018 went very well this year. We had 27 children participate throughout the week. All who attended had a great time. The program theme was Shipwrecked, Rescued by Jesus.

At Summerfest the gift shop made approximately 20.00. The Religious education table had a fundraiser to benefit religious education, with handmade ornaments made by Regina Parthesius. The proceed total was \$ 76.00.

Religious Education classes will begin on Tuesday September 11, 2018, 6:30-8:00pm Parent orientation will be held on the same night at 7:00pm in the church. All family packets have been culminated and ready to go.

I had 30 classes as required by the archdioceses as well as three snow days built into the class times.

I have mailed out to the Bloomingburg Fire Department the dates on which we will be holding our two annual fire drills for the year. I will be in contact with Mr. Larry Arnold to confirm these dates with him.

Packets for the Confirmation families are also culminated and ready to go for their orientation meeting in October.

So far, I have 23 families registered for the 2018/2019 year. Of those families I have gained two new families and one returning family. 14 of those families are paid in full. The balance of families who have not yet paid was mailed a statement asking for their balances to be paid in full prior to the new year starting. A total of 40 children so far are registered for this coming September.

A letter has been mailed to 4 families who still have not registered for the new year ahead. I will be having one last registration the weekend of August 18<sup>th</sup> & 19. I will be making phone calls to those 4 families if they do not come to mass to register their children; And make an appointment during office hours.

I have received a total of \$ 2,010.00. This gave me the flexibility to purchase all books for the new year for the children, as well as implementing new Bibles specifically geared to the different age groups and grade levels. This will allow the child to understand the scripture readings in a simplified manner and easier for the catechist to explain to the child. I'm hoping that this will bring forth a more in-depth understanding of the Bible to the children thus, bringing out more questions and discussion during class time.

Beside adding the New bibles to the curriculum, I have also added two other books for the children on how to pray, as well as how to pray and how to pray before the eucharist at an exposition of the eucharist in church. This I had discussed with the catechists last year. I would like to implement into the curriculum as well.

I have also changed the Sexuality program for level 8 from Theology of the Body to the Chosen program. I will be having a meeting with my level 8 catechist, on how we will be proceeding with this curriculum in adding a section of information into the weekly program, as well as using the Our Sunday Visitor program, and preparing them for confirmation in November of 2019.

I have purchased a few new add ons' of technology to the program; an iHome speaker for iPhones and laptops as well as a HDMI for the TV. This will give the catechist the added benefit of educating for the student using their phones or computers .

I have been able to fill the two catechists' positions which became vacant at the end of last year. For the Level 6 position I have placed Megan Booth, and for the level 7 position I have placed Cathy McLaughlin.

The informational Catechist meeting for September will be held on Tuesday August 21, 2018 at 7:00pm at the Parish Center. Their packets are culminated and ready for their meeting.

Catechetical Sunday will be held on Sunday September 16,2018 at the 9:30 am Mass. This will also be our first Youth Mass. At this mass we will be honoring all catechists for their devotion to the program. We will be also honoring one catechist who has been a part of the program for the past 40 years. Mildred Pitt. Following the Mass I have asked Gail Arsenault yo help me with a coffee hour in honor of Mildred. I will also be asking the level 7 & 8 children to participate in helping to set up and clean up on that day.

All materials have been ordered for catechetical Sunday.

I have taken my recertification in CPR & First Aid.

I am ahead of schedule, which is a wonderful thing. I am looking forward to another fresh new year.!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Herschel, CRE