

## Meeting Notes

### Religious Education/Faith Formation in Dodge East Parishes

January 30, 2025

There were approximately 40 people in attendance, as well as the Faith Formation committee members.

After prayer, led by Father Miniatt, the meeting proceeded as follows:

Topics of discussion:

#### 1. **State of the Religious Ed program**

3 locations, 3 programs

Each of the DREs presented a summary of where things stand currently in their programs.

- **Sacred Heart, Horicon**

103 students

Meet weekly

Elementary students meet on Monday evenings from 6:15 – 7:30pm; Middle and high school students meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:15pm; preschool class meets Tuesday mornings from 9-10:30am

- **St. Mary, Mayville**

108 students

Meet on alternating Wednesdays (K-5 one week, 6-Confirmation the alternate week) as follows:

K-5 Wednesday evenings from 5:20 – 7:00 with a break time

6-Confirmation students from 6:20-8:00 with optional dinner time for students/staff from 5:45-6:15

- **St. Mary, Lomira**

33 students

Meet every other week

Elementary students meet from 6:00-7:15 on Mondays

Middle and high school students meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00, with an optional dinner time at 6:00

#### 2. **Enhancement of the Faith Formation program**

We'd like to focus on enhancing our Faith Formation programs by initiating more work around adult formation/evangelization. Some examples of this might include Bible study, bringing in speakers, and having a parish mission. OCIA formation needs are currently being met by Maryclare and Jodi (7 students). This is important work that needs to be continued.

Those at the meeting were encouraged to share their faith and reach out to others, as statistics show that only 28% of Catholics are currently going to Mass weekly.

#### 3. **Thoughts from our leaders**

\*Next year we propose that we combine Lomira and Mayville Religious Education classes and operate out of the Mayville and Horicon sites. This will free up one staff member to work specifically on outreach/evangelization. (Maryclare has expressed interest in this work.)

We would like to work toward the mindset of "us" – all parishes in our territories working together, but at different locations. Faith Formation has done some things already to this end (Confirmation retreat, adult

Bible study, Lomira and Mayville Confirmation students currently meet as one class). We want to continue to come together as a cluster.

#### **4. Invitation of thoughts from parishioners about what we should do**

Below are some of the topics & questions brought forward for consideration or response (answers, if provided, in parentheses):

- What are parent responsibilities for teaching lessons to their child on an off week? (please teach these)
  - Are students using the same curriculum at each location? (not currently)
  - Are there other options besides combining Lomira students with those in Mayville and operating from the Mayville site? For example, could Sunday classes be considered for the younger children? (there is not enough interest in this option to implement that at this time)
  - Why operate out of Mayville v. Lomira? (numbers are higher in Mayville)
  - What could we do to provide opportunities for children/youth to be involved in Masses? (there are already some things happening, but this is something to explore further)
  - Will the physical spaces in Mayville accommodate more students? (yes)
  - Will Lomira parents be willing to transport students to Mayville?
  - Is there a problem getting enough catechists? (no)
  - What will parents, particularly those transporting their children from the Lomira area, do while their children are in class? (adult formation/community building will be offered during the time the children are in class)
  - What about parents with other children who will need care during classes? (childcare options could be offered)
  - How can we as a community support/encourage each other in faith formation? (Community events? Attending events already occurring...)
  - What can we put in place to build community?
  - Does the Archdiocese have resources we might utilize?
  - Could we organize a prayer group around this problem?
- \*As far as the proposal to combine the Lomira and Mayville programs, only one person expressed reservation about this at the meeting, and no alternative suggestions were brought forward. Some positive feedback was also expressed.

The meeting concluded with a prayer.