

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Report for Annual Meeting 9/22/2011....

The 2011/2012 school year has begun. This year we have 135 families involved or 220 students.

The kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades meet on Sunday's from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

The remaining classes are on Wednesday evenings on various shift times.

We again have a wonderful team of catechists. Many wonderful things continue to happen in this program through the efforts of these catechists on all the grades levels.

Just to share a few of the things that we are looking forward to this year.....

~~The Sunday students will be involved in four different Sunday morning liturgies this year. As they learn and hear about the Mass, there is no better tool to use than to have them experience the Mass as well.

~~The Confirmation students will also have three specific Sundays that they will be involved in, and learn more about, the various ministries available to them in the church. They will also be spending time again this year at St. Ben's, the meal program for the homeless in Milwaukee.

~~For the past two years we have been partnering with the "Home of the Children of Jesus" orphanage in Haiti. Through several fundraising efforts by the junior high students in our program we have been able to send them \$2,836.95. A representative from Health Ministries for Haiti will be coming to speak to all of our young people next week. Our goal is to involve all students this year, in a variety of ways, as we continue to build this relationship with these children in Haiti.

~~Creating an awareness in our parishes on the true meaning of stewardship is something that will be worked on and talked about much this year – we will also be building that awareness in the Christian Formation program through several activities that we have planned. As we have been doing since the start of the school year in 2005, all of the young people in the school and Christian formation program have again received stewardship envelopes as well.

~~We are in the process of starting the third Mission trip from St. Mary's/St. Andrew's. This past year we had 25 young people and 9 adults that went to Omaha, Nebraska. Many of these young people were so moved by their experience that they have already signed up for next year. The trip will be at the end of June, 2012. We have already booked spaces for 30 young people. St. Mary's and St. Andrew's can truly be proud of these young people.

~~The Christian Formation program has also adopted a portion of highway in Mayville. Our young people have already, and will continue to work on this project three times a year for as long as we want to stay committed to the project.

~~We also wanted to come up with a way to stay connected with families that have come to us to have a child baptized. So since this past Easter we have started a program called "Parent Letters". Every six months these families will receive an envelope from the parish containing a variety of faith-filled ideas/activities that parents can use with their child until they are ready to join us either in the school or the religious education program.

~~I'm also excited about the program prepared for the high school students this year. We have a wonderful roster of presenters – some from outside the parish and some of our own parishioners as well. If anyone ever wants to join us on these Wednesday evenings, the door is always open.

~~Lastly, we are again continuing three "parent nights" throughout the year. These nights are opportunities for parents to learn more about/and grow in their faith so that they can better share that faith with their children at home. Our first one will be on the Roman Missal changes.

Please read more about our happenings throughout the year in the parish quarterly newsletter.

Any questions on anything??

Submitted by: Kathy Ritger, DRE