

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2009
Submitted by Mark Stockman

Members Present: Fr. Richard, Karen, Kathleen, Suzanne, Peg, Fran, Tony, Debbie, Doug, David, Mark

Guest Presenter: Sue Antoinette, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Opening Prayer: Mark

Faith Sharing: An extended faith sharing this month with each member responding to the question, "Where are you encountering Jesus during these Lenten Days?"

The finance committee presentation will be postponed till the May meeting.

Sue Antoinette described her vision for youth and young adult ministry within the parish. She focuses on seeing the kids as whole persons, their lives, and how faith can intercede on a day to day basis. She sees her role as an advocate for teens in the parish. In addition to leading regular BYG meetings and mission trips she also seeks to find other avenues for them to contribute and provide leadership opportunities for them such as giving talks about their various trips to other constituencies.

Sue uses a multitude of sources for her work with kids. One study in particular helps her recognize the attitudes of teens today, the National Study of Youth and Religion. The results of the study mirrors the attitudes she observes from Bellarmine teens. Specifically this study lays out that many kids subscribe to "moralistic therapeutic deism." By having an understanding of this we can help direct the teens through questions and study of the scriptures for truth beyond these concepts. This form of morality is summarized as:

1. A God exists who created and orders the world and watches over human life on earth.
2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
4. God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
5. Good people go to heaven when they die.

Sue reiterated Jim Crosby's assertion that the primary educators of faith for youth are their parents. She stated that parents' needs should be tended to early in order to affect their kids' faith lives. The parish is attempting new strategies to feed this need such as parent meetings and intergenerational faith events. Sue closed by explaining that she attempts to serve the faith of each individual family, find what nurtures them no matter their faith leanings (liberal to conservative) through fellowship and family visits.

Scribe and Opening Prayer for the next meeting, May 6th will be Tony Dardy.