

Faith Formation Three-Year Plan (2010-2013)

Cluster of Holy Spirit, St. Anthony, and St. John Cantius in St. Cloud

Goals:

Per the mandate of Bishop Kinney, the goal of this three-year faith formation plan is to create a successive, programmatic approach to sustain, improve, and expand upon opportunities for all the members of these three parishes to enhance their understanding and experience of Catholic faith in Jesus Christ and the Church across the entire spectrum of age and ability.

Ten Presumptions:

1. *This plan is focused on Faith Formation initiatives. It is not an exhaustive pastoral plan for the cluster. Except where noted and where there is a specific link, this plan does not discuss liturgy and worship; stewardship and finance; social and fundraising events; staff or administrative organization; or other elements of parish life and function.*
2. This plan does not directly concern Catholic school education, which in this cluster will remain under the guidance of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Board of Directors, its Corporate Members, and the existing collaborations with other Catholic elementary and high schools. Any developments in this arrangement will be subject to the usual consultative processes.
3. Existing programs will continue with the expectation of efforts at continuous quality improvement as long as there is sufficient interest and participation. Much excellent faith formation is already in place. New or substantially revised areas are marked with an asterisk (*).
4. Budgetary realities are inherently connected with the possibilities for programming. Current financial conditions suggest that additional paid staff will not be added. Existing staff will be asked to coordinate areas as appropriate; greater volunteer participation and support will be necessary for the success and growth of some of these initiatives.
5. Some efforts will depend upon collaboration, presumably through the existing structures of ChristSeed, beyond this cluster. Some minimal funding from area parishes will be offered towards these programs as appropriate.
6. Sacramental celebrations will remain parish-based as much as possible, although much of the sacramental preparation will be collaborative and cluster-based, as is currently done.
7. The options of home-schooling and small-group faith formation experiences for youth and adults will be supported as much as possible, within the limitations of staff time and resources.
8. All parish- and cluster-sponsored offerings and programs will adhere to all applicable canonical and diocesan policies and requirements, including the Safe Environment requirements.

9. This plan will be assessed by faith formation staff and participants at least annually and may be amended as needed in consultation with the Pastor and/or those he designates for such consultation, including the Pastoral Councils of the cluster parishes as appropriate.
10. The major areas of concern addressed here take into account the vision of the Church for faith formation as expressed in the National Catechetical Directory and the Code of Canon Law, along with the input solicited from the Pastoral Councils and other parish members, and some of the suggestions of the Options Group process in 2008-09.

The Plan

2010-2011

For children / young people:

- continue the Faith Formation program as developed by Ginny (*Ginny*)
- classroom-based formation at the Saint Anthony's site for K-9 [or 10???) (*Ginny*)
- parish-based preschool, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Vacation Bible School (VBS) and other early childhood learning experiences as currently in place (*current / new volunteers*)
- Confirmation Discipleship Training at the Saint John Cantius site for grade 10 [11???)], with Fall and Spring classroom options and joint celebration according to diocesan scheduling (*Ginny, Scott*)
- First Penance and First Communion continue as currently, with collaboration between SEAS and SAS programs, Learning Stations, and parish-based celebrations (*Ginny, SEAS staff*)
- develop a specific plan to enhance opportunities and expectations for Catechist Training (*Ginny with ChristSeed*) *

For Youth Ministry:

- continue the existing programming and structures (*Scott, Melissa, John, advisory committees*)
- develop a specific plan to present to the Pastor for better collaboration in the cluster for youth ministry while respecting parish identity and affiliation (*as above*) *

- integrate service learning as part of the youth program offerings each year (a minimum of two distinct opportunities, with spiritual and catechetical reflection upon the experiences afterward) (*Ginny, Scott, Melissa, John, with ChristSeed*)

For Adult Faith Formation:

- continue cluster-wide Bible Study offerings (*volunteers along with Fr. Tom*)
- develop Senior Adult Ministry educational offerings in collaboration with Parish Nurses and Pastoral Team members (*Lee, Kathy Theisen, others*) *
- continue Baptismal preparation classes (*Deacon Vern*)
- continue Marriage Preparation process in collaboration with Pastoral Team and mentor couples (*Deacon Vern and mentor couples*)
- develop and celebrate a “Year for Marriage” in the cluster to focus on this vocation (*Fr. Tom and ad hoc committee*) *

For Families / Intergenerational:

- in collaboration with ChristSeed, develop a stronger RCIA process with larger groups, better faith sharing, more variety in presenters (*Deacon Vern and ChristSeed*)
- in collaboration with ChristSeed, develop an RCIC program(s) for children and youth who do not fit the mainstream model (unbaptized, uncatechized, non-English-speaking persons) (*Ginny, Deacon Vern, and ChristSeed*) *
- continue and enhance “Special Events” (to be renamed) in the cluster, including areas such as: Mission Education; Liturgical Catechesis (focus on new Roman Missal and GIRM); Relationships and Chastity for adolescents; catechetical topics of interest (death and dying, bioethics, Canon Law, etc.); Parenting Skills; Fr. Jimmy’s topics (*Fr. Tom and designated staff as relevant*)
- identify a cluster “webmaster” who will be responsible for site development, links, updates, etc. (*Fr. Tom and appropriate staff*) *
- post Sunday homilies by clergy online the week following delivery, archived for 4-6 weeks (*Fr. Tom, Fr. Jimmy, deacons, webmaster*) *

In May/June, 2011 – assess and refine (*all*)

2011-12

Building upon the above, add the following elements in the appropriate areas designated:

- adapt Confirmation programming to new diocesan guidelines if implemented by this date (*Scott, Ginny, affected staff*)
- more Senior Adult offerings, including social and spiritual opportunities (*as above*)
- develop one or two family-centered social/educational events for the cluster (*to be determined*)
- develop cluster Faith Formation Resources webpage for updates and education (*Fr. Tom and appropriate staff*) *
- develop better e-mail communication network for liturgical ministry scheduling and reminders (*appropriate staff with volunteers from each area*) *
- improve recruitment, training, and support (including appreciation) for Mass servers (*current / new volunteer coordinators*)
- build better bonds with CHS/J23 students and sponsoring parishes (*in collaboration with CHS*)
- continue liturgical education as appropriate around new Roman Missal reception (*as above*)
- in collaboration with ChristSeed, offer retreats for liturgical ministers that focus on spirituality of these ministries (*ChristSeed and designated staff*) *

In May/June, 2012 – assess and refine (*all*)

2012-13

Building upon the above, add the following elements in the appropriate areas designated:

- coordinated Welcome Team for each parish, with follow-up at 6-12 months (*to be determined*) [also discuss adding more specific evangelization focus and/or outreach as has been done in the past, such as Catholics Coming Home or another outreach to the marginalized, alienated, or unaffiliated?] *
- broaden social justice opportunities and service learning that combines youth and adults (*to be determined*)
- develop catechetical series in bulletin that briefly addresses each of the sacraments (*Fr. Tom or designated staff*) *
- additional programming as may be determined through assessments (*all*)

In May/June, 2013 – assess and refine; collaborate on new three-year plan for 2013-16 (*all*)