

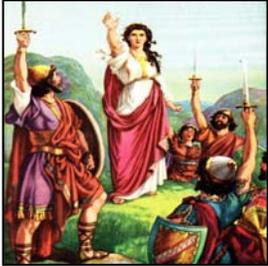
Annual Report - Part 3 of 7

July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION

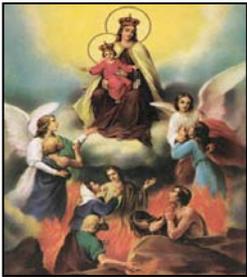
*Faith Formation Commission fosters the life-long growth,
of all, in the Catholic Faith.*

ADULT FAITH FORMATION



Bible Study Groups met throughout the year in four-week to six-week segments. Our groups consist of an average of 90 participants. This past year the groups studied the Gospel of John, and the Book of Judges. We offered weekday morning and evening sessions.

Catholicism Series: we continue to offer Fr. Barron's series. 60 participants attended the sessions entitled: A Vast Company of Witnesses: The Communion of Saints, and The Fire of His Love: Prayer and the Life of the Spirit. We offered weekday and morning sessions.



Purgatory: The Forgotten Church was offered three times during Lent and twice after Easter. Over 100 people attended.

The Christmas Retreat "Journeying Toward Bethlehem" was attended by 50 participants who spent the day reflecting on the experiences of Zechariah, Mary, and Elizabeth, Mary and Elizabeth, Joseph, Balthazar, and personal Christmas memories.



Transformations met weekly on Tuesday mornings, after the 9:00 Mass, to study and discuss the upcoming Sunday readings.

Men's Spirituality Group continues to offer an opportunity to study and discuss the Sunday readings. Participants meet weekly on Saturday mornings after the 9:00 Mass.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is an opportunity for those who are interested in becoming members of the Catholic Church or need to receive Eucharist and Confirmation. We had 2 Catechumens and 7 Candidates for reception into Full Communion who met weekly beginning in September and concluded after Easter.

Baptismal Preparation provides formation for the Sacrament of Baptism to parents of infants to be baptized, as well as godparents. Twelve sessions were held this past year, and over 100 new parents and prospective godparents attended.

Archdiocesan Catechist Certification was completed by three of our catechists. This brings the total number of Catechists certified to 16.

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CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION



VBS (Vacation Bible School) is a week-long summer program open to children in Pre K – 6th grade. Students in 7th -12th grade participate as volunteers. The program was held the third week in June. This year our theme was “Weird Animals” with 79 children in attendance and approximately 72 volunteers.

SPRED is a monthly religious education program for children with developmental disabilities. Currently we have 7 “friends” and 9 catechists. On June 1st two of our students made their Confirmation and four students made their First Communion at the SPRED Mass. Our SPRED families attended Masses at St. Francis de Sales on November 9, 2013 and April 6, 2014; St. Marcelline Parish on November 20, 2013 for the funeral of Rev. Warren McCarthy; Mundelein Seminary on December 1, 2013 and brunch; St. John SPRED Chapel on February 2, 2014; St. Norbert on April 11, 2014 for Stations of the Cross; and again at Mundelein Seminary on June 29, 2014 followed by a cookout. Other gatherings attended were: Reflection Weekend at St. Benedict Abbey (Catechists); Working Together with multiple SPRED communities, Engaging in personal work during the TC session and Animation workshops (Catechists); Helper Catechist Training; SPRED observation (2 x's); 2014 Vicariate 1 SPRED Spring Planning (Catechists); Animation workshop hosted at St. Edna's on June 21, 2014; Eighth Annual AHCF Chicago Walk (9/22/13); St. Edna SPRED Family Movie/Social (2/1/14); Spring Mamre Dinner & Dance Fundraiser (4/27/14).



This year the **Heavenly Hands Creative Ministry**, consisting of fourteen teens from grades 6-12 and three adult directors, performed “Shepherd's Voice”, on Super Bowl Sunday. Over 300 people attended. The puppeteers wrote, choreographed and performed the show. The performance was free, but they collected a free-will offering of \$470.93 that was donated to the St. Edna CHWC (Catholic Heart Work Camp) fund. Our ministry practices every Sunday in the Hurley Center basement from 9:30 until 11:40AM. The team, with the facilitation of the directors (Deacon Greg Beeber, Debbie Beeber and Karen Janisch), designs props and choreography. This will be the 10th year for puppet ministry.



First Reconciliation was celebrated by 73 students and their families in December. **First Eucharist** was celebrated by 75 students and their families in May. The students also attended a retreat for each of the Sacraments.

Religious Education Family Events. Religious Education participated in 4 family events this past year centering on The Family. We began the year with our kick-off event. Our second session educated families about the various symbols and traditions of Advent. At the conclusion of this session each family was invited to make an advent wreath to take home and enjoy during the Advent season. Our third session involved families in two service projects. The first was creating tube sock gift bags for homeless people through the PADS program. In the second project, families tied no-sew blankets for the patients at Loyola Medical Center. 55 blankets were donated to the facility as well as extra felt to help them create more blankets.

In our final session, we talked about Holy Week. Families learned about the various symbols and traditions of this special week. At the conclusion of this session various families volunteered to share the completed quilts they started at the family kickoff. About 150 attended each event.



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YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Edna has had an active Youth Ministry program since the early years of our Parish. In different spaces, with different faces, and sometimes, even a different name. But we have always been a Parish committed to the Young Church. We believe that the Youth of today are the Young Church and they will be the Church leaders of tomorrow. As such, they need to be invited, encouraged, and included in the daily life of our Parish and our Catholic Church.



High school students from six different schools form our **Peer Ministry Team**. We also have a middle school ministry called the **Options Ministry Team**. These groups meet regularly and are part of a much bigger picture. These are some of the ways our Youth Groups are active and present in our St. Edna Community: **Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, Puppet Ministry, Kairos Retreat, Summer Mission Trip, Vacation Bible School, the**

Sunday Night Liturgy Choir. They are also part of the **Pastoral Council**, and catechists in our **Faith Formation** classes.

Our weekly meetings start with social time, then we progress to reading the upcoming Sunday's Gospel and discussing the message. We then share prayer intentions, make plans for community service projects, and sometimes, we just talk about hot topics. There are lively conversations, sometimes board games or ping pong, and a great group of people to spend some time with!



Each year we take 50 teens and 10 adults to a Midwestern city to serve the poor, elderly and marginalized. While at Catholic Heart Work Camp we work hard, pray often, and connect with old and new friends. In June of 2014, we traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio.



We attended the National Conference of Catholic Youth in November of 2013. 25,000 Catholic youth gather for this bi-annual conference. Our group attended workshops, keynote presentations and Mass celebrated by Archbishop Tobin. One of our young people was also part of the team of performers at the conference.

Confirmation for Adolescents is also part of Youth Ministry. We have 3 grade levels- 8th, 9th and 10th-currently in classes. In November of 2013, Bishop Rassas Confirmed 49 young people.

This Faith Formation Report was written by:

Lorie Crepeau, Heather Daudelin, & Nancy Holpuch