

ACTS BOARD MEETING

October 7, 2008

Present: Fr. Pat, Sandy Nolan, John Boddy, Hal Kulm, George Watt, Vincent Lew, Kathie Brown, Marilyn Monagle

Excused: Maria Lisowski, Kerri Tonkin, Katie Benning, Frank Coenraad

I. The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. with prayer.

II. The minutes from the August 26 meeting were approved. No changes were made.

III. Our regular meeting date will be the first Tuesday of each month.

IV. Retreat follow-up. There was considerable discussion on this topic. The following suggestions were made:

- The spiritual director/companion of each retreat will give a brief talk on follow-up faith-based activities available - faith sharing, monthly gatherings, etc.
- RCIA directors for both parishes will be invited to the follow-up potluck to give a brief talk on how you can join the Catholic church. Post-retreat time is the ideal time to begin Inquiry classes (through the RCIA).
- Once a prayer partner, always a prayer partner - Directors will emphasize to the team the importance of continuing to pray for and connect with your prayer partner even after the retreat is over. You should invite them to faith-based and service gatherings. Personal invitations work best. Also include them in non-religious activities, especially those who are not yet Christian or affiliated with a church. This might be the easiest way for some people to become part of our community.
- Short-term faith sharing group work well - seasonal materials can be on Lent, Advent, or the letters of St. Paul since this is the Year of St. Paul. These events can be co-ed or family-based, which is a real plus.
- Follow-up gatherings should be moderated and structured so one person does not monopolize the sharing. Sharing can be done in small groups with a table moderator and then later opened up to the large group, similar to the retreat. Music, snacks and sharing should be part of the evening.
- Teen ACTS - many non-St. Paul's retreatants are being left out of the loop when follow-up gatherings are planned. It is important to cross over the parish and church lines to be inclusive of all youth who have attended a retreat.

V. Director Training Workshop - Saturday, October 25, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon followed by lunch. The training will take place in the Valley Senior Center. All ACTS Board members are strongly encouraged to attend. Sandy will come up with an outline and time frame for the presentations.

- George Watt has volunteered to do the Safe Environment training.
- Sandy will discuss the budget and fees, scheduling priests, registration.
- Marilyn will discuss out team responsibilities and have binders prepared for Out Team coordinators.

- Fr. Pat will discuss why we use the ACTS Missions Director's Manual instead of the revised manual floating around. He will also discuss guidelines for talks.
- John Boddy will discuss the supply closet.

The selection of team and speakers is similar to our method for selecting directors - it should be done through prayer. One third of team members must be new to team, one third may have been on one or two teams, and the rest may be "old-timers." The idea is to continue bringing in new faces and not just stick with the same people each time.

We also need to take a stand on finances and budgets. The women's retreats are costing the team members more and more out of pocket expenses. The many pillow gifts are wonderful but unnecessary. The focus should be on the spiritual gifts we receive on retreat instead of the material gifts, especially now with our nation in a state of crisis. We have to pare back on the extras - does everyone need a t-shirt? Let's make it easy for everyone to be on team, instead of just those with disposable income.

We will be inviting former directors to share their experiences from their retreats. Chris McDowell, Bill Benning, Katie Benning, Heather Johnson-Smith and Mike Monagle were mentioned.

Would anyone else like to present information to the Directors, co-directors and other attendees? If so, please contact Sandy Nolan at 789-7307.

VI. Advent Gathering - Saturday, December 6th 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Parish Hall, St. Peter's Hall

The date is set - Marilyn emailed Earthen Vessel to see if they're still available. We'll begin with a prayer service led by our Board President and Vice President. Kerri and Kathie, can you prepare the prayer service based on the one I sent you from last year? Maria, can you advertise and promote the potluck - through the newsletter, through the JuneauACTS group on yahoo, and with posters? We'll invite the ACTS Missions Board to help us co-host the event. After the prayer service and blessing of new directors we will have a potluck and then concert by Earthen Vessel if they are available.

We also want to invite everyone to bring a shoebox of gifts for a child or one or two gifts that can be placed in an age and gender specific box for our new Love, INC ministry at St. Paul's. This is similar to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry, but the boxes will go to local families.

Our next meeting will be November 4 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting ended with The Lord's prayer at 8:00 p.m.