

PSR Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, August 8, 2011

The July/August meeting of the Parish School of Religion Advisory Board was held on Monday, August 8, 2011. Those present were Associate Pastor Dale Maxfield, PSR Coordinator Angela Atkinson, Chairperson Staci Wittenauer, Board Members Denise Foerg, Loretta Hudson, Jennifer Kretchmer, and Lois Thompson.

After a review of the current PSR Handbook, minor changes and corrections were noted. It was decided that parents would receive the revised Handbook via e-mail before the Parent/Child Kickoff which is scheduled for September 7th. A copy of the revised Handbook will be mailed to those parents who do not use e-mail. The Handbook that is to be sent to parents will not include the Commitment Form. The form will be given to parents and students on the night of the Kick-Off. Parents and students will be asked to sign the form and return it to the catechist that evening.

The Board discussed the possibility of offering workshops to parents, on occasion, while the students are in class. These workshops are offered free of charge to the PSR program by Rick Barnhardt, the RCL Benzinger representative. It was decided that the Coordinator would schedule "How Do Children Become Practicing Catholics?" for parents of students at all grade levels, and for parents of second grade students, "Eucharist and Reconciliation: A History and Theology." Each of these workshops will be scheduled sometime during the first quarter.

The Kick-Off meeting will begin at the Church with prayer, introductions, and a general overview of the coming PSR year. Students, parents, and Catechists will be dismissed following the Coordinator's remarks to meet in the classrooms. Catechists will have an opportunity to meet parents, discuss the objectives for the class, explain any classroom policies, and answer parent/student questions.

The emergency procedures for Gibault and SPPCS are being reviewed and will be updated where necessary. The plans and procedures will be coordinated with local police and fire officials.

Board members were provided with a list of catechists for the 2011-2012 school year. We are still in need of an additional first grade catechist in order to keep the class size small. It is expected that all catechist positions will be filled before the catechists meeting scheduled for August 24th. Among other agenda items for that meeting, catechists will be asked to submit requests for special supplies so that the Board may provide them if the budget permits.

The current Confirmation Coordinator has resigned, creating a need for a replacement. The appointment of a Sacramental Coordinator who would coordinate both First Communion and Confirmation would be ideal, and the Coordinator will speak to specific people who may be willing to take on the task.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be September 12th at 6:30pm in the Parish Pastoral Center.

Lois Thompson