Youth Ministry Leaders’ Monthly Gathering Minutes
November 3, 2020 – Virtual Online Meeting


I. Opening Prayer was led by Jasmin Tone.

II. Updates:
   • Mental Illness Awareness Week Project
     o Reach & Engagements:
       ▪ Evening Programs: Tuesday (2,234 - 467), Wednesday (2,823 - 674), total both nights (5,057 – 1,141)
       ▪ Morning workshops: total registered over 3 days (55), parishes represented (26), schools represented (2), pastors/clergy registered (11/2)
     o Website (www.davenportdiocese.org/miaw) continues to be updated
     o Did deeper – conversation on social media and its effect on teenage mental health
   • NCYC 2021. NFCYM planning for a gathered in-person event. More details will be released on November 18 and will be communicated shortly after that to all. Questions were raised around whether promoting NCYC was prudent given the current pandemic and whether parishes would even be interested in taking a group, riding on a bus together, staying in groups in hotel rooms, etc. e Faith Formation Office is waiting for the information coming from NFCYM on November 18 to assess whether or not to proceed with planning and what steps and decisions are needed to proceed if that is the decision. The O.F.F. hopes to have some initial information released to the diocese by the end of November.

III. Discussion:
   • Youth Ministry 2020-2021 – How’s It Going?
     A chance to share what you’re doing, successes and challenges, and what you need help with.
     o Successes:
       ▪ (Evan) care packages distributed for every high schooler & the parish will touch base in person with teens/parents (reaching about 95% of them 2-3 times this year)
       ▪ (Samantha Brinning) Had a “Meet ‘n Greet” as Samantha’s new this year, and gave out goody bags with QR code for their Instagram page & had a raffle for pizza delivered to their house
       ▪ (Sofia) Broadened her leadership team with a grandma and a young couple
       ▪ Kelley Churches in Mt. Pleasant are doing outdoor Nativity scenes on a particular Sunday afternoon in Advent inviting everyone in town to visit all the Nativity scenes. They will be distributing “punch cards” for folks to get punched when they visit them and then turn them in for a drawing for prizes
       ▪ (Tommy) When watching videos from the FlipGrid, parents are interacting with them, doing the activities or discussions with them,
having the conversations with them

- Brett: Middle School started off gathering with 10-12, then grew to about 20. Participation from Catholic School students has been good and growing. Since they started these, they’ve seen about 40 kids that want to be involved.

  - Challenges:
    - Overall, people express that it’s difficult getting people to show up for things (virtual or gathered);
    - (Evan) With a new baby at home, feeling like I can’t really go out to things like I used to
    - (Sofia) Having a critical mass of kids to do anything when we gather. We combined JH & HS together to try and help with this, but it’s still hard to come up with games that are fun with only 5 kids
    - Future planning as kids are tired with Zoom
    - (Brett) We were challenged with participation even before COVID – haven’t been able to launch FlipGrid. Difficult reconciling what is ministerially allowable and appropriate and what is safe
    - (Jasmin) Seeing how we can still do CORE in Spring. Maybe doing it outside and for only one day.

  - Other discussion topics shared during this time:
    - Some things people are working on:
      - (Julia) Gift bags – Advent & Christmas devotional (with Katie Prejean-McGrady), and an ornament
      - (Samantha Brinning) In December cookie decorating contest (delivering undecorated cookies to homes and gather on Zoom for decorating together)
    - Question was asked: What are parishes doing in terms of gathering?
      - (Kelley) 1 week in person for 30 minutes (not as much social stuff), and then the next week on Zoom for longer time period (more discussion)
      - Trying to get a grasp on what exactly the diocesan protocols mean for gatherings as there are different ways to interpret it.
    - Someone shared a new game they did. It’s called “Among Us” similar to Mafia. There are lots of YouTube videos showing people playing it.
    - There is a continuing need to express the HOPE of our faith.
      - Evan Brankin from Our Lady of Victory-Davenport gave a tour of the Virtual Youth Room he created along with a brief tutorial of how he created it.

IV. Announcements

- Next meeting:
  - December 1. Don will contact Luke Ebener the week before the meeting to see if he can plan and lead Opening Prayer.