

Questions/Comments from Listening Session 6-4-08

There were five main focusing questions. Everyone was provided with sticky notes to write comments/questions under each area. The notes were then grouped for relevancy by participants.

Comments/answers are after each group in italics. The numbers (in parentheses) represent the importance that the group in attendance gave to each area. Each person was asked to prioritize their concerns on a scale of 1-5, then place the number 5 beside what they felt was the most important, 4 beside the next, on down to 1. The numbers are the cumulative vote. (No number does not mean that it is not an important area, just that it did not make it into anyone's "top 5.") A high score signifies that that area was of primary importance.

1. How can we help you pass on the faith as a parent?

- offer opportunities to build community at church
- make it fun! so they find joy in this

New this year, once a month we will have a Wednesday night Parent/Catechist Faith Sharing group. this event replaces the Wednesday night G.I.F.T . By allowing opportunity for catechists to share before their weekly children's faith sharing groups, we will be able to better use our many talents and resources and learn from each other. More ideas about how to present lessons, games to play, and more interactive ideas will inevitably come out of these sessions.

- teaching teachings of Catholic Church at child's level of understanding
see Wed. Night Faith Sharing above
- teaching prayers
We will continue to teach prayers again this year.

2. Where would you like to see this program in three years? What are the limitations to that vision?

- larger numbers and involvement
- double the amount of kids involved, more involvement
- what is the vision?
- more/different parents involved in teaching – limitation, people's comfort teaching faith formation and other commitments given priority.

(7) The Children's advisory Board has been working on developing a vision and mission statement. If you have any input, please call any member. As the programs continues to grow, we anticipate an increase in numbers, both children and adults.

- every child at Pax involved at Kingdom Kids at no cost.
Ideally, this would be wonderful, but there are costs involved.
- children teaching children (teens teaching younger grades)
We will continue to encourage youth to share their gift of time, but we also need to ensure that they are learning the faith at their own level.

3. What do you find successful?

- grade 1-5 based on G.I.F.T. theme
- following G.I.F.T. theme, music
- music
- music
- following G.I.F.T. theme was rewarding for children as they could remember G.I.F.T. better.
(10) We will continue enhancing the G.I.F.T. theme next year as well as the monthly music.
- having classes on the half hour (i.e. 5:30 and 6:30) helped the working parents get them to class and fed.
Our classes were held on Monday nights from 5:00 – 6:00 and and 6:30 – 7:30 last year. That will be the times again this school year.
- preschool – gathering of kids for general story time, involvement in stories
- sharing our faith with others
this will continue
- Church Summer School
Summer Church Camp is an annual event.
- Children getting to know other children
- building community
- 4th and 1st grade buddies
- allowing time for children to “chat”
- children like it!
(6) One of the goals when Children's Advisory Board first proposed this program was that the children make new friends and have a greater sense of church community.

4. How could the program be enhanced?

- get parents to know parents
- note to go home
- childcare in between before and after for Digging Deeper
*(5) New this year, once a month we will have a Wednesday night Parent/Catechist Faith Sharing group. this event replaces the Wednesday night G.I.F.T.
The meal before G.I.F.T. is also a great time to get to know others.
Notes were sent home every week and the information was posted on the web site monthly about our topic. We may need to have better communication to parents so they know to watch for the information specific to each level.
Child care was offered during Digging Deeper – communication about this service may have to be improved.*
- More participation within the children during the First Communion mass make it more special – allow pictures to be taken.
*(9) A child's First Communion Day is special in that it is the **first** time that they are able to receive Jesus in the Body & Blood, but there will be many more! Remember, the celebration of the sacrament is not limited to sentimentality. There are some changes that could possibly be made, the priests will address this topic with the parents at the Eucharist retreat next year. As a*

base for further discussion about participation in the First Communion liturgy, you may wish to read the diocesan guidelines They can be found at www.dow.org. (on the front page about 1/2 way down.)

- more consistency - dates of classes too inconsistent not enough time to engage kids
- life-long learning
- advanced program for children who know the basics
- would like to see more coverage of topics flow better each week
- it is nice to follow the G.I.F.T. theme, I just wonder if the kids are getting the complete education.

(14) Last year we did not meet on Martin Luther King Day and President's Day. This year those are G.I.F.T. nights.

Life-long learning is the cornerstone of the Growing in Faith Together philosophy.

At this time, an advanced program is not being planned.

A Scope & Sequence is in the process of being written. The Diocese of Winona does not have a Scope & Sequence, they approve different curriculum. Each publisher includes a Scope & Sequence.

- resource info options to help with visual teaching – teacher's manual - ?

(6) New this year, once a month we will have a Wednesday night Parent/Catechist Faith Sharing group. This event replaces the Wednesday night G.I.F.T. More ideas about how to present lessons, games to play, and more interactive ideas will inevitably come out of these sessions. Each catechist will receive a resource book. Any supplies that are needed, please ask or write on the clipboard in Room 14.

- class size – 14 is too big!!
- adult helpers - need to have a little teaching experience or outgoing
- smaller group size to help involve all children
- smaller class size

(14) Ideally, the group sizes will be between 8-10. This is obviously dependent on enrollment and volunteer catechists. Here are the class sizes from last year:

	<u>5:00</u>	<u>6:30</u>
<i>first grade:</i>	12	13
<i>second grade</i>	11, 10	11, 11
<i>third grade</i>	14	14
<i>fourth grade</i>	7	14
<i>fifth grade</i>	9	10
<i>sacraments (retreat only)</i>		8

total 144

The difficulty arises as to when to break into two smaller groups. (At nine? ten? eleven? Some games and activities require more people.) With more groups, the Center Space would need to be divided into rooms, and then music would take place upstairs ~ some have expressed concern about reverence for the worship space.

- involving mass a piece of faith formation
- having priests visit classrooms

- more “priestly” involvement – visit classrooms, talk to students, more visible
(13) Both Father Joe and Father Caesar attended the listening session. They understand that this is a concern.

5. Questions/Comments

- Wed. nights?
- I would love to see the Faith Formation on Wednesday nights
- Wed. nights non-denominational church night
(2) Wednesday night has traditionally been our youth group night (6-12 grade) due to space limitations, it is not feasible to have 1-12 grade on the same evening. Also, the older children seem to have more of a commitment to sport teams and other activities than the elementary children.