

# Central MD Leadership Meeting

June 26, 2000

Mount Saint Mary's College, Emmitsburg, MD

## Attendees:

---

Terry Smith, St. Joseph-Taneytown  
Bill Steo, St. Joseph-Emmitsburg  
Rina Rocca, St. Joseph-Emmitsburg  
Sr. Dolores Chepiga, St. Joseph, Hagerstown  
(Prison Ministry)  
Barbara Miller, St. Joseph, Buckeystown  
Sr. Joan Bastress, St. Joseph, Sykesville  
Fr. Chris Moore, St. Joseph-Hagerstown  
Br. John Brady, Christian Brothers Spiritual  
Center

Sr. Carol Czyzewski, St. Anthony/OLMC  
Christopher Weber, CEM Center  
Sandra Maxey, St. Timothy  
Karen Gullace, St. Ann  
Patricia Rogers, St. Ann  
Joe Swiss, St. John-Frederick  
Mary Fulmer, St. Michael-Mt. Airy  
Barbara Levy, CEM Center

## Prayer & Welcome

Opening Prayer led by Christopher Weber. Chris then welcomed all for attending and quickly went over the personnel changes from the past year. He presented a plaque to Barbara Miller, DRE at St. Joseph Buckeystown for her 4 years of service to that parish. She will be leaving that position. Marian Cochran who is new to the area will be replacing her.

## Announcements

The CEM center is making an effort to transition to more use of electronic mail distribution this coming year. Meeting attendees were asked to let the Center know if they prefer receiving our monthly correspondence through email.. It was suggested that they could try on a trial basis to see if they liked it.

## Year End Review

All were asked to look at the table of events that were sponsored by the Center the previous year and asked to comment on these events. What they liked, what didn't work, etc.

- Sr. Dolores Chepiga suggested more social justice issues. She also suggested a two day formation event-perhaps another day of the week.
- Sr. Carol Czyzewski said the Formation Day was very fruitful - excellent keynote and liturgy.
- Barbara Miller commented that local catechists appreciate having clock hours available in Central Maryland
- Rina Roca brought up the Echoes of Faith Formation program. She asked the Center to provide an additional 30 hours of training in addition to the required 30. Chris said that the Center will be providing an additional 32-37 hours during the next year, divided by the county with different clock hour areas being offered in different locations.
- Sr. Carol mentioned the Along the Way retreat for Catechetical leaders and parish staff. Was a good idea, but presenter needs to give us more depth and input. This was more of a lecture type of thing. Chris suggested that perhaps we could give presenter an outline of what staff was looking for prior to retreat.
- Preparation Rites in Hagerstown well done except candidates needed that small group time at the end of the day. Was not done this past year due to time constraints.
- BACM spirituality day that was held at St. Timothy's and the Basilica in Emmitsburg was not very well attended by Central Maryland personnel. She said it was a unique and spiritual day and a wonderful experience.
- Patricia Rogers had a question regarding when the Confirmation guidelines would be presented to catechists by Archdiocese.

Chris mentioned that he felt there was a stronger cohesiveness among the parishes this past year. This area is rich in resources, personnel, finances and skilled professionals and the region can begin to do more in terms of growth.

### **Catechist Formation Proposal**

The group was presented with the Catechist Formation Proposal and asked about the program. Is it possible? Are 6 hours per parish or school feasible? Following are thoughts, reactions and feedback to the proposal, which was approved by the group as a program they would like to participate in.

- Barbara Miller commented that this program is just not for "catechists". Perhaps the wording could be changed because it can also be used for Adult faith formation. The word "catechist" may scare potential attendees away if they feel they aren't catechists. She has used portions of Echoes of Faith for her adult faith group and has gotten good response to it.
- Patricia Rogers was pleased to see that there is facilitators training that will be sponsored by the Center, provided by RCL.
- Terry Smith had a question regarding the person doing the facilitating. Did it need to be someone who was pre approved to facilitate groups, or did the DRE need to do it?? Chris said that a person needed good meeting skills, a catechetical background, and recommended they attend the facilitators training.
- There was a question regarding whether the Center wanted to know what parishes were doing if they weren't using Echoes of Faith. Yes, please inform the Center on the form of sessions what your parish is doing.

### **Proposed programs and Initiatives for 00/01**

- Joe Swiss was concerned because he felt that the Center was just focusing on children's catechesis. Where was the Adult Faith Formation training and events??

Chris replied that while the Formation Plan does not address Youth Ministry or Adult Formation plans - the last Adult coordinators meeting focused just on this issue. The group is planning on offering an area wide initiative on "Our Hearts are burning..." and is planning on making that the focus of the Formation Day in March. Also Seminars in Adult Ministry are due to come back to the region. A discussion followed on the differences between catechesis of children and adults. The group then moved on to the voting portion of the meeting and voted on the events for the upcoming year. Results of those votes with comments are listed here.

The meeting ended with lunch.

## CEM Center of Central Maryland Proposed Activities and Programs 2000-2001

CATECHIST AND YOUTH MINISTRY FORMATION	Yes	Yes, w/ reserv.	No
<b>1. CENTRAL MARYLAND CATECHIST FORMATION PLAN</b> All parishes and schools in Region offer minimum of 6 hours of catechist formation on site each year. Parishes and schools can use <i>Echoes of Faith</i> modules, with schedule coordinated by the Center. Where possible, facilities open training to all in Region. Center issues master schedule, assists with training of <i>Echoes</i> facilitators, adjusts plan where necessary to accommodate individual parish needs. Center also systematically offers formation in various areas (see # 2, below)	11	2	
<b>2. REGIONAL FORMATION WORKSHOPS per CM Catechist FORMATION PLAN:</b> <b>Area C – [CARROLL COUNTY]</b> – Creative Methods for Elementary – 9/5, 9/12, 9/19, 9/26 – St. Michael, Mt. Airy – 8 hrs <b>Area A – [FREDERICK COUNTY – NORTH]</b> - Catechist as Person of Faith – 6-8 hrs – Offered as a retreat? <b>Area B – [FREDERICK COUNTY – SOUTH]</b> – The Person being catechized – 6-8 hrs <b>Area D – [WASHINGTON COUNTY]</b> - Message of Catechesis – 6-8 hrs – SACRAMENTS <b>Reservations: looking for more than the basic 30 hours of training</b>			
<b>3. Youth Ministry Kickoff:</b> October 15, St. Peter's, Libertytown. 6:30-8:30 PM. Region is invited to not hold sessions for junior high or senior high on this night, and instead send catechists of younger and older adolescents to this evening. First hour would be be mini-keynote and prayer, followed by workshops from 7:30 to 8:30. <b>8 reservation votes due to date (day after Institute)</b>		8	
<b>4. Formation Day</b> - Mount St. Mary's College & Seminary, March 10, 2001, 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	15		
<b>5. Echoes of Faith Facilitator training</b> – August 16, 2000 – 7:30 – 9:00 PM	15		
LEADERSHIP FORMATION	Yes	Yes w/ reserv.	No
<b>PLANNING</b> – Convene committee to prioritize formation needs in spirituality, theology, skills development <b>Reservation being "committee" meeting</b>	14	1	
<b>Computer Skills Workshops</b> – The Center would contract with a local computer training center to provide day-long training sessions: Topics suggested: <b>Microsoft PowerPoint As Tool for Your Ministry</b> 8:30 – 4:00 PM Introduction and overview to its use – how to use PowerPoint to develop onscreen or overhead presentations. Day includes case study pertinent to ministry, plus technical support for follow up afterwards. Offered at discounted rate through CEM Center. <b>Internet 101 (The Internet is Your Friend – REALLY!)</b> – 8:30 – 4:00 PM The ins and outs of how the Internet works, using your web browser, email, online searches, introduction to how web sites work, and more. <b>Microsoft Word</b> – 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM This course would introduce the learner to Microsoft Word, plus provide tips and tricks for performing numerous everyday tasks. <b>All votes yes to training. Concern about level of training, different skills/needs levels.</b>	15		
Theology Update: <b>New Testament? One reservation regarding topic. Suggestions: Sacrament Update, Basics of Morality, Book of Rev. Fr. Chris Moore available for Annulments topic.</b>	14	1	
<b>Catechetical Skills Update:</b> Confirmation Programs?. <b>Other topics: Adult Catechesis, Competency Day-(budgeting, public speaking, how to run meetings-professional skills training)</b>	9	2	

<b>Retreat Day for Catechetical/Youth Ministry Leaders and Principals</b> ? Do you want to do this again? <b>Suggestion to combine with Theology Update</b>	13	1	
<b>CATHOLIC SCHOOLS</b>			
<b>Advent/Lenten Workshops?</b> Interested in doing them again this year? <b>Bad time of year, should be done within own parish families</b>	7		1
<b>YOUTH MINISTRY</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes w/ reserv</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Youth Rally</b> - St. Peter's, Libertytown December 9, 2000 Return engagement of Bob Rice, who was very well received last year. <b>St. Ann's - bad time.</b>	7		1
<b>ADULT CATECHESIS/EVANGELIZATION</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes w/ reserv</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Implementing Bishops' document "Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us"</b> - via leadership sessions at March formation Day, plus follow up sessions for adult teams.	14		
<b>OTHER EVENTS or NEEDS?</b>			
<b>Regional Technology Task Force</b> – The Center would convene a task force to consider ways to use technology to offer formation and training. Television? Internet? Other methods? <b>Could be Formation Day track...</b>	13		
<b>Liturgy Network</b> – The Center would assist Regional Liturgy Network in establishing formation for liturgical ministers at annual Formation Day – and beyond.			
<b>New event added:</b>  <b>**Newman Singers, Youth Ministry Workshops. May 2000</b> <b>More information coming.. Held at St. Joseph, Buckeystown??</b>	7	1	
<b>GRANDPARENTS "Traveling Road Show"</b> - <b>Sr. Carol</b> suggested sponsoring a regional workshop or series of workshops that could be taken around to different parishes highlighting a grandparents special role in sharing faith in families.	9		
<b>800 NUMBER</b> – <b>Bill Steo</b> suggested that the Region could make Catholicism more visible by providing an 800 listing in the Yellow Pages, inviting people to call with questions, concerns about Roman Catholicism, life, etc. Once established, personnel from around Region could be recruited to cover the phone at different times – a referral and outreach service of sorts.	10	1	