

Disabilities Awareness Committee
Minutes
10-18-18

Present were: Michele Clouse, David Krueger, Tamara Hardesty and Richard Murphy.

Meeting opened with a prayer.

Minutes from the 8-23-18 meeting were approved as published.

A new agenda item was taken up first due to the limited time available for Tamara Hardesty, who is from Bowling Green Ky, to discuss her concern. Tamara proposed an outdoor camp- like retreat day (say on a Saturday in spring, summer or fall) for young people (middle school, high school or even young adults) with special needs, possibly at Gasper River Retreat Center. It could be initially a day long retreat and perhaps advance to a weekend retreat, if over time, expertise was available to conduct it.

The retreat day might feature singing of songs, activities, crafts, all with a Catholic flavor. Tamara argued that these dear young people deserved an opportunity such as this where they could interaction with others and begin to develop friendships as other campers do. This would bolster their self-respect and help them develop respect for others. It would give a real boost to inclusive ministry.

There are models for this type of camp, such as Camp Courageous, MDA Camp and perhaps others. Richard agreed to approach Ben Warrell, Director at Gasper River Retreat Center in Warren County, to see if this idea could be explored further. It was not clear if accessibility would be a potential problem there.

Old Business

1. Special Education Needs for Religious Education and Schools: Karen Miller has taken the place of Vicky Warren as Coordinator of special needs for children especially at the K-3 Campus for the Owensboro Catholic Schools. There has not yet arisen the opportunity for someone from the Committee to talk to her about her approach to this work, and to learn how the Committee might interact with her office.

2. Future Planning for a Mass of Inclusion: Fr. Jaime Dennis has agreed to be the celebrant at a Mass to be offered on April 28, 2019 at 2:00 PM CDT at Brescia University Chapel. Brescia has already agreed to host it that day.

3. Parish Inclusive Rep Report: the Committee hoped to make an appeal for more volunteers for this ministry at the upcoming Mass of Inclusion.

4. Sr. Audrey Gold Award: There have been no applications for this award to date. It was agreed to rerun the announcement in either the December or January issue of the WKC.

5. The Committee invited Tamara Hardesty to join the Committee.

Other New Business

1. Issues Committee Members May Wish to Raise: tabled.

2. Efforts to Assist Persons with Disabilities with Receiving the Sacraments: Lauren Johnson took Sr. Jeanne Weist's place as the Co-director of the Office of Worship, along with Fr. Brandon Williams. Richard will ask Lauren to attend a future meeting to open the discussion of this topic.

3. Joint Efforts on Serving Persons with Disabilities: tabled due to ill health of our collaborative partner.

4. Resources: Richard shared information about the Mass for Health Care Professional, known as the White Mass on October 21, 2018 at 2:00 PM at St. Stephen Cathedral. All were welcome at this upcoming event.

The meeting closed with Prayer.

The next scheduled meeting is set for 12-13-18 at 5:15 at Blessed Mother Parish Hall.