



Godly Play/Youth Formation (10/9) - Recap

In our meeting on October 9th, we had a great group of people. Heather Heim, Lynn Chiavacci, Annie Haftl, Caroline Medina, Eleanore Velez, Ann St. Clair, and the rector all met for a little over an hour. We began our time on clarifying our goals for the Godly Play and Youth Formation programs. We spent the remainder of our time together looking closely and honestly at where we are right now with the program. We closed by setting another date to meet and planning to explore some partnerships.

Our Goals

Our goal is to

- Create a safe, welcoming, and holy space where our young people can grow in Christ;
- Build a Church family where we can all learn from each other;
- Hand on a solid foundation in the Church – our moral and ethical traditions, our responsibility to serve others, and the tools to grow in the life of the Spirit.

Where we are right now

In the second part of the meeting, we looked at where we are now. We catalogued our strengths and weaknesses, and we evaluated the opportunities and threats we see today.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP Materials • Strong history of GP in the parish • Some children • Financial resources • Passion in the congregation • PR Documents and previous experience • Strong Outreach Committee • Strong music program • Older youth in leadership • Vacation Bible School • Global outreach experience • Traditions in the Parish • Openness and responsiveness to new ideas • Talented congregation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer students • Fewer teachers • Fewer families • Congregational understanding and buy-in has eroded – deaths, departures, and new members • Space • Not enough time for play



<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educating new members • The students we have are spread out in age → chance to improve handoffs between age groups • St. Ann’s is also in transition • New middle school youth group in Pittsfield • Restate how important this is • 4400 people in Lenox are not in church on a Sunday • Chance to pitch this differently – important and exciting • Families on the bubble 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It’s hard looking at a smaller program than we had in the past. • Scheduling • Busy parents; busy kids • Cultural headwinds about what’s important • Spiritual balancing for teachers
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Next steps

After this lively conversation, we set a next meeting for **Monday, November 6 at 7pm**. The goal of the meeting in November will be to look closely at the program over the last few years.

Action Items for this month

What?	Who?	When?
Contact St. Ann’s about possible collaboration	AH	11/6
Continue working on VBS, collaboration and program development	AH/LC	11/6

