

Sault Ste. Marie Area Total Religious Education Programs

Religious education is for everyone. A truly living faith is vital and we must strive to communicate this vitality of belief to all whatever their age or circumstance may be.

Briefly, our educational program for our youth revolves around released time classes for eleven area schools. Our high school program was planned for the day time released time classes also, but didn't work out as planned, and is now being offered in the evening. These schedules are also on the schedule page.

We have a nine sister team actively involved in this program. One sister is part time. The part time apostolate is centered around the service area. The service area refers to the elderly and the infirm. Five area pastors and two associate pastors are also involved. Parishes involved in the program are; St. Mary, St. Joseph, Nativity, St. Isaac Jogues, St. Catherine's (Bay Mills), and St. Catherine's sister parish-Sacred Heart (Sugar Island).

The Religious Education Team

Sister Germana - part time pastoral service coordinator
 Sister Mary Quinn - Grade 1 and pastoral service worker
 Sister Rita - Pre-school and grade 1 coordinator
 Sister Mary Alice - Grade 2 and special education coordinator
 Sister Anita - grade 3 and 4 coordinator
 Sister Mary Keenan - grades 5 and 6 coordinator
 Sister Cora Marie - grades 7 and 8 coordinator
 Sister Ellen Enright - High School coordinator
 Sister Mary Gabriel - Director - Over all Program Coordinator

Lay Volunteer Catechists

There are presently approximately fifty six men and women catechists helping with teaching. This is a tremendous aid to our released time schedule. It is also helping us to keep our class sizes as close to 10-15 as possible.

Coordinators areas of concentration

1. Meet weekly with each lay teacher catechist to explain the weeks lesson.
 - a - prepare lesson for the week-set goals
 - b - get input from the catechists
 - c - provide discussion period
 - d - identify problems - work together towards solutions
2. Immediately after each session catechist meets with grade coordinator to evaluate:
 - a - what went well
 - b - what went wrong
 - c - note immediate problems
 - d - Switching children - often at this session immediately after teaching, a teacher may request that a child be changed to another class, particularly if he is causing a disturbance.
3. Meet weekly with director for evaluation
 - a - Communication of the general tone of the week
 - b - What went well
 - c - What went wrong
 - d - Projection of coming events - (We are trying to compose a catechist calender for the year to keep dates clear for meetings and the like, but, haven't completed this yet. Monthly all faculty meetings are currently being planned. These sessions will revolve around a sacred meal, Eucharist, and a meal shared together. The first all faculty session is planned for November 2nd. This meal will be provided by the program, and will also include Board members, and wives or husbands of all involved in the program.

After this, if the faculty votes it in, we will have a monthly liturgy together followed by a pot luck supper.

- e - Set goals
- f - Attendance
- g - Other

4. Parent Content Sessions

Three sessions are being planned for parents of our students

First session - November

Second session - February

Third session - April

Other programs currently in the planning stages

--Special education for the mentally retarded, and the physically handicapped. We are planning on individualized instruction. The advisability of using high school volunteers as well as parent volunteers is being studied.

--Service apostolate for the senior citizen and the infirm. First small group session scheduled for October 17th. Area group meeting planned for November.

--Adult education plans for adult education centering around the sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony are being worked out.

Schedule

A. Pre-school (Not on released time; most of these children go to kindergarten)

This is currently in operation on

1. Tuesday morning - 10:25 - 11:25
2. Wednesday afternoon - two sessions - 1:15 - 2:15
3. Thursday afternoon - 12:45 - 2:15
4. Sunday morning on one parish - St. Joseph's

B. Grade school - Released time

<u>Monday</u> - McKinley (10:00-11:30) at St. Mary	Washington* - (2:00-3:30) at St. Joseph
<u>Tuesday</u> - Lincoln (1:45-3:15) at St. Joseph	Malcolm - (10:15-11:30) at St. Mary
<u>Wednesday</u> - Jefferson (9:00-10:30) at St. Mary	Finlayson - (1:00-2:30) at St. Joseph
<u>Thursday</u> - Garfield & Bruce (12:45-2:15) at St. Mary	Brimley - (10:00-11:30) at St. Catherine
<u>Friday</u> - Soo Township (8:45-10:15) at St. Joseph	

C. Junior High

	<u>Mon.</u>	<u>Tues.</u>	<u>Wed.</u>	<u>Thurs.</u>
Gr. 7	8:30-9:23	8:30-9:23	8:30-9:23	8:30-9:23
Gr. 8	9:19-10:12	10:08-11:01 12:45- 1:38	10:57-11:50 2:23-3:15	1:34-2:27

Junior High Evening Session - Monday 7:30-8:30 (For students who have no study period during the day)

D. High School - all evening sessions

Sunday - 7:30 - 8:30

Monday - ~~Bay Mills~~ Sugar Island on alternate Mondays - 7:30 - 8:30

Wednesday - 7:30 - 8:30

Thursday - 7:30 - 8:30 - Bay Mills H.S. 2:00-3:00
every other week

* St. Mary's and St. Joseph's in use because of numbers.

1. The basic text used for Pre-school and Grades 1-6 is Sadlier.
 - 2a Identity is the basic text used for Junior High - Allyn and Bacon is used as a supplementary text.
 - b Supplementary material for Junior High.
 - What's So Special About Me? St. Mary's College Press - Winona, Minneapolis
 - Consisting of three books - I'm On the Move
 - I'm Free
 - I Count
 3. The Christian Awareness Series is the basic High School text.
 4. Other Material Being Used -
 - 4a. Religion Education for the mentally retarded - We Live In the Light Series
 - McCarthy and Stone - Chicago 1771 Revised
 - The Children's Bible
 - Anne de Vries - Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis 18, Missouri
 - 4b. Material Being Considered in addition -
 - Sadlier Sacramental Program
 - Take and Eat
 - Communion Parent and Child
 - Other Useful Material - Religion, Montessori and The Home by Jeannine Schmid Benziger.
 - Classroom Creativity - Elizabeth Jeep
 - Joy and Discover Magazine Teacher Guides
 - Students - Arch Books - Divine Word Publications
 - Celebrate God's Mighty Deeds - Paulist Press
 - Bible Prayers for Children - H. Proost & Co. Turnhout, Belgium
 - Mass Prayers for Children - H. Proost & Co. Turnhout, Belgium
 - Bible Pictures to Color - C.R. Gibson
 - It's All About Celebrating - Kit for Eucharist - Mine Publication's
 - A New Catechism - Herder and Herder
 - Pictures, Films and Film Strips
 - 4c. Books to add:
 - Coordinators by Joseph Neiman - St. Mary's College Press, Winona, Minneapolis.
 - Pace - Winona, Minneapolis
 - Vatican Documents
 - The Good News for Modern Man.
5. Other Materials that would be helpful for pre-school and primary grades:
 1. The Glad Days - Mine Publications
 2. At least one subscription for teacher use of:
 - Mine
 - Happy Together - Mine Publications
 - Joy - Mine Publications
 3. Winkle and His Friends - Story Kit - David Cook Publishing Company.
 4. Life, Love, Joy - record to go with Book 2. - Silver Burdett Publishing Company.
- Handbook (1) should include broad objectives and procedures but not be so specific as to exclude creativity on the local level.
- (2) should contain:

a. Philosophy	e. Salaries
b. Objectives	f. Diocesan Office of Rel. Ed. Personnel
c. Policies	g. Diocesan Directory
d. Approved materials	

Religious Education Day - Marquette October '71

- a. The opening address was excellent for setting a proper perspective on total religious education. In evaluating the whole day, however, the different sessions which I attended were not innovative enough and I feel we need big names to make this type of day the success that we want it to be. It was very disappointing to see the lack of displays which I was looking forward to for new ideas.
- b. 1. Get outside speakers
2. more demonstrations by book companies
3. time on the agenda for Sisters to get together
- c. Good Points:
1. Good for "spirit" and exchange of ideas.
2. Dividing into interest groups is good.
3. Opening general talk by Father Dumitz - good.
- Bad points:
1. Morning session seemed a waste of time - nothing really accomplished by lengthy introductions.
2. Too few exhibits.
3. No choice of speakers on a grade level.
- Suggestions:
1. Get suggestions for speakers who are excellent in their fields to give us something really worthwhile.
2. Diocese should have a collection of helpful materials on all levels that would be on display, with some competent person to explain them and give information as to where they could be ordered, etc.
- d. The keynote address by Rev. Robert Dumitz was excellent in particular for persons new to the field, as to the why of the direction religious education is taking now. I appreciated the hard work of our staff personnel in planning for this day.

However for the most part I considered the convention a waste of both time and money. While appreciating the efforts of our local U.P. talent, I feel that it is extremely important that we make great efforts to widen our horizons and become aware of what is going on in religious education in the whole Church. This is my fifth year of attending U.P. Conventions and we continually use the same people to give the same message or we use local people who are themselves new to a particular field, to speak as "experts". I am not against sharing opinions and talent. But I believe an in service day which requires me to travel for five hours should provide new ideas-new methods-new materials and we should spend the money as a diocese to provide that or not go through the motions of a little N.C.E.A. In my opinion I'd rather see the money used to send another person to a workshop on a national level related to their specific field where "experts" are available.

The exhibits at our convention were disappointing and for the most part I felt we were filling in time. I think we should either make it worth a day or not have it at all. I would approve of no meal being served if that additional money could be used for speakers and if we could get someone really good, why not use him or her for a couple of sessions for the whole day for the benefit of all groups?