**CAVA Parish and School Engagement Committee**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Date**: June 28, 2022 at 9AM Central Time

**Members Present**: Fr. Adam MacDonald,SVD, Greg Darr, Br. John Eustice,CSV, Sr. Maria Brizuela,OSF, Sr. Michele Fisher,CSFN, Sr. Skolastika Wea,SSpS, Suzanne Petrouski

**Facilitator & Recorder**– Sr. Michele Fisher, CSFN

**Welcome**

**Opening Prayer** – Gospel reflection: Matthew 8:23-27 by Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB followed by personal sharing about the calm in the center of the storms around us.

**Hopes for ministry and outreach**

Each person was invited to share what they hoped a parish/school engagement committee might be able to accomplish in the coming year.

* To engage in an intentional, ongoing dialogue about synodality and vocation ministry, inviting our youth to a responsive and interactive conversation and also to engage with fellow vocation ministers, teachers, DRE’s, campus and youth ministers, clergy and other interested collaborators in forging pathways of hope for present and future vocational discernment and exploration. “***Encounter and Invite***”
* In the midst of the unrest and turmoil in our society at large, it is vital to help young people to learn to listen: learn how to become still and silent, learn to observe the world around them, learn how to listen when others speak, learn to think before speaking, to be more recollective. This can be accomplished through interactive experiences that engage the senses and involve very practical applications. “***Whose is the voice worth listening to?”***
* Create a template for a different type of classroom visit that would be more interactive, inviting students into a sharing and dialogue process.
* Today’s youth have a lot of questions about God, about their faith and about the Church itself. Can we invite our young people to submit questions that are on their minds and from those questions, create several brief videos using the actual voices of the kids asking the questions followed by a CAVA member offering a brief answer or reflective comment. These videos could be posted on the CAVA website for teacher and catechist resources or for our own use in classroom or parish visits.
* Create specific vocation “lesson plans” (perhaps a five lesson series) for elementary, middle and high school populations that can supplement their faith formation/religion classes. Using Scripture, experience and story to awaken the students to their God encounters and through them to explore God’s dreams and purpose for their lives. Also, to introduce them to the major life vocations.
* Write a letter to school and PREP leaders introducing CAVA and its vocation programs.
* Work to restore in-person visits to schools and programs of religious education with the ability to include participation using internet platforms, Zoom, etc. Pre-plan the sessions and have necessary materials available.
* Create a generic vocation response card that can be distributed after vocation presentstions for individuals to reach out to CAVA vocation ministers for further conversation or materials. Must follow all safe environment/confidentiality requirements.
* Create a program called “***Life in 3-D: Dialogue, Discernment and Decision***” that can be used by individuals and groups as a foundation for understanding and embracing their vocational call and choices, but also to aid them in career, college and other important life and directional decisions.
* Look into local parish activities (festivals, picnics, parish missions, Lenten activities, concerts) as places for vocation ministers to simply show up, participate and enter into conversations with people. If a local parish sponsors weekly “Coffee and Donuts” volunteer to “sponsor” a weekend and have vocation directors to serve and chat with participants of all ages.
* Embrace a “preferential option for the youth, present and future,” bringing people together to acknowledge Christ present and alive in our midst, create community and to work toward forming individuals for service in, with and for the Church and all God’s people.
* Create a program of accompanying young people (high school/college) in their search for college and careers, teaching them the art of discernment and possibly introducing them to priests and religious who have had various careers above and beyond their religious vocation (resource: Vocations A-Z from NRVC)

**Next Steps**

* Before the next meeting, each member of the group will prayerfully consider each of the suggestions for future action and see what resonates with them, what they feel they could invest time in and what they believe should be our working goals for the coming year
* At the next meeting we will try to come to a consensus on manageable goals and activities for 2022-23.
* Once the goals are clear, they will be published for the entire CAVA membership and planning sub-committees and meeting dates will be established.
* Group members, in light of our conversation, are invited to think about possible collaborators for future projects that may include both CAVA and non-CAVA members.

**Next Meeting**

* **Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 9AM Central Time**. Sister Michele will send out the Zoom link and facilitate the meeting and Greg Darr will serve as recorder.

Respectfully submitted,

Sr. Michele Fisher, CSFN