Theology Teacher & Campus Minister Elk County Catholic High School

#1. Department goals developed by our faculty, coordinated by me, relying on Church, NCEA, and community expectations.

Theology Department

At it's most basic level, theology is the study of the reality that is God. Theology is an academic discipline which relies on the application of several methods in order to assist in the process of making faith more understandable. Theology is the discipline which allows a person to better see the complex relationship between the practice of one's faith and the values and creative expressions of the culture to which one belongs. As an academic discipline, theology relies on higher order thinking skills in order to integrate and view all human knowledge in light of one's faith.

Theology Department Goals:

- 1. We seek to instill in the students the sense that they are called to be active participants in a journey to their ultimate destiny in heaven, a process which requires the attendant values of humility, trust, and dependence on God as their origin and goal.
- 2. Since God is the origin of all truth, students are to see the interrelatedness between theology and all other academic disciplines. Theology is where the integration of human and divine knowledge takes place.
- 3. Students will be able to identify and understand the many aspects of Divine Revelation, both public and private.
- 4. The many facets of moral responsibility will be understood and appreciated by the student.
- 5. An environment will be provided which will encourage and support the Gospel mandate that people be socially conscientious.
- 6. Students will develop an appreciation of liturgy. This will take place as a result of knowledge of the scriptural foundations of liturgy, the life of prayer, contemporary liturgical expression, and the moral implications of liturgy.
- 7. Students will have a multifaceted experience and knowledge of what is meant by the concept of Church.
- 8. Doctrine will be seen as representing conclusions and summaries of what is essential to the practice of the Catholic faith.
- 9. Students will possess a knowledge and appreciation of the historical development of religion and its effect on the belief and practice of individuals, as well as its impact on the world stage.

10. Students will have a developing sense of the influence of religion and culture on each other.

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#2. Senior Theology curriculum I wrote in concert with local stakeholders, in partial fulfillment of Duquesne University course requirements.

Christian Lifestyles Table of Contents: The Social Group: The Local Community..... The Student To Be Educated Developmental Stages of Students..... Relevant Cognitive Theories30 A Philosophy of Education: Catholic Identity..... School philosophy..... Rationale.... Curriculum Design: Overview of School Theology Curriculum......40 Cognitive Map......44 Syllabus.......45 Curriculum Implementation: Sample Unit Plan Relevant Articles Curriculum evaluation: Student Evaluation.......83 Appendix A - Student Contributions to Student Achievement...... 93 Appendix B - The Purpose of Catechesis102 Appendix C - Pertinent Educational Methods Related to the Teaching of Theology.......106

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#3. Mind map of Love and Responsibility (Karol Wojtyla/ Pope John Paul II) which I developed using a framework of Aristotelian virtue and vice. I did not teach from this document, and I revised it several times. I have since abandoned this as an educational framework for high school students. I view sublimation as a mostly faulty process that emphasizes repression within a Catholic context.

Errors or Sins on the Side of Rigidity:

Excessive moral guilt or shame

Frigidity - fear of emotion; romantic expression

Sexual cowardice

Sexual repression

Puritanical views toward sexuality and the body

The pleasure of sex within marriage is viewed as sinful or as a necessary evil

Lack of openness to children

Denial of beauty and attraction

Discomfort with one's body

These sins are examples of boundaries without a healthy sense of freedom.

Healthy freedom is restricted.

Sublimation -

Appreciation of the

gift of one's body

Identification of

sexual orientation

as a defining human

Openness to children

Faith, hope, and love

requiring prayer and openness to the gift

of God's Spirit.

characteristic

Freedom to embrace one's destiny

Identification of one's true self

Chastity - faithfulness to one's sexuality according to one's state in life

Transcendence - acceptance of the opportunity to share in Christ's divinity

Reflection of the Kingdom of God mirroring the relationship between Christ and the Church

Love offered and accepted as a gift of one's self.

Openness to children as an expression of

Courage to overcome habitual sin

conjugal love

Moderation of sexual thoughts, urges, and actions

Openness to the moral law

Appropriate communication regarding sexual

Faith, hope, and love are infused virtues requiring prayer and enness to the gift of God's Spirit.

Errors or Sins on the

Side of License:

Immodesty

Unrealistic or unhealthy preoccupation with sexual thoughts

Premarital sex

Extramarital sex

Artificial birth control to emphasize physical pleasure

Masturbation

Homosexual acts

Pornography

Hedonism - the pursuit of pleasure for its own sake

Sex as response to instinct

These sins are examples of freedom without proper boundaries.

Freedom has no shape or direction.

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Theology Teacher & Campus Minister Elk County Catholic High School

#4. Two student accolades.

Elk County Christian High School St. Marvs, PA 15857

Special Teacher

Choosing a teacher that has greatly influenced my life was an easy decision. My choice is Reverend James Faluszczak: better known as Fr. Jim. Fr. Jim has been my high school Theology instructor for two years. Within that time, he has taught me about my faith, my church community and myself. I am very grateful for having had the luxury of learning from such an inspirational man.

Fr. Jim has influenced me in more ways than can be put into words. He has directed me spiritually; by guiding me toward the true goals in life; genuine happiness and satisfaction of who I really am and pointing me toward the path of eternal life in the presence of God in heaven. He has guided me socially by pointing out my important qualities as a teenager; kindness, loyalty and faith in God. He has also made me realize my potential as a student by using the gifts that I have received from God. Some of the gifts that Fr. Jim has developed within me are discipline, hard work and doing whatever it takes to achieve my goals. Lastly, he reinforced that I am a child of God and I have been created in His likeness, yet I still am a unique person. These principles have guided me in every aspect of my life as a teenager, student and a unique individual.

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Who's Who Among America's Teachers®

The Best Teachers in America Selected by the Best Students®

ADVISORS

Gloria V. Anderson Gifted & Talented Coordinator Resource Instructional Support Coordinator Franklin County School Board

Lovely H. Billups Director of Field Services

Rocky Mount, VA

NOMINATED BY:

January 28, 2000

Fr. Jim Faluszczak
Elk Cty Christian High School
600 Maurus St
Saint Marys PA 15857-1024

John E. Murrays Jr

#5. Duquesne University teaching accolade.



DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

OF THE

HOLY GHOST

HONORS:

Rev. James Faluszczak

For Excellence in Teaching and Commitment to University Values and Traditions.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dean of Domestic Admissions and International Affairs

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#6. I completed Pennsylvania add-on training for certification as a member of our school's Student Assistance Program. Among the many issues encountered on an SAP team, this in-service taught mandated reporting requirements in Pennsylvania, which were not observed by some members of our school trained in this program.



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#7. Needs Assessment requested yet marginally implemented.

Needs Assessment – Faith Formation Department

This report represents areas, related to the faith formation of our students, which need either renewed or initial attention. It is not meant to represent every specific activity or focus of faith formation at Elk County Christian.

Clear Identification of Five Facets of Faith Formation at ECC:

Pastoral Care

Catholic Identity

Campus Ministry

Service Program

Theology Program

Pastoral Care - "The ministry unique to the priests assigned to ECC"

Weekly and special liturgies

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Penance celebrations and individual opportunities Spiritual direction of students, staff, families, and school as a whole

Theology Program - "Answering the fundamental questions: 'Who is God?' and 'What does he expect of me?'"

ntifying significant ferral

Continued development and presentation of the curriculum:

Modes of Revelation Christian Morality

Christian Lifestyles

Electives

Liturgy preparation

Assessment of student knowledge base (on entering ar MEMO

ACRE (from NCEA)

Development and management of portfolio ass

Student transcripts must recognize theology classes tal To: order to accurately reflect the school's mission

cumulative grade point average.

John Kowach From: Fr. Jim Date: July 12, 2000 Re: Needs Assessment

Proposals:

formation. The emphasis has been almost excl curriculum.

2. An additional theology teacher is necessary to the theology program and to allow better than i faith formation.

3. Reduce Fr. Jim's course load to four out of eigl year in order to provide leadership for all areas the integrity of the theology program.

Respect is needed for the "free" periods allotte 4. ministry. The faith formation efforts of person instructional presence should be viewed as being efforts.

5. Greater visibility needs to be given to the faith

There is a need for explicit administrative com The attached report is my response to your request of June 16, and on prior occasions, that I provide you with an account of various needs within the areas of Campus Ministry and Theology at Elk County Christian. Since the completion of this Needs Assessment was also one of my professional goals for the 1999-2000 school year, it represents ten months of research, discussion, and reflection on my part, with the assistance of various members of the administration, faculty, student body, alumni, and some parents. It is my conviction that these needs will be best met by adopting the proposals I offer at the end of the Needs Assessment.

> You will notice that I refer to this as an assessment of need for a "Faith Formation Department". This name was developed, upon discussion with Sandy Florig and Jim Wortman, to better express the work of the theology, campus ministry, and service programs. I have expanded it's umbrella to include the unique ministry of priests at ECC, as well as potential opportunities to promote the school's Catholic identity. It seems important to realize that these various efforts are really just one effort: the development of faith in the lives our students. It is in that spirit that I respectfully offer this report.

possibly by including it under the responsibilities of the headmaster within the school's administrative structure.

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Theology Teacher & Campus Minister Elk County Catholic High School

#8. My presentation to architects planning an addition to Elk County Catholic High School. I was asked to generate this presentation, first, for <u>A.J. Palumbo</u> in hopes of his augmented donation to the overall expansion of the High School. I made this presentation to him personally.

Meeting with Architects September 27, 2000

Campus ministry department building needs:

Chapel

Seating needed for approx. 450 people for weekly all school mass

Inspiring materials and design vs. utilitarian design

Exclusive to liturgical use

Fixed vs. flexible seating

Kneelers?

Proximity of altar, ambo, and presider's chair to students; balance of liturgical furniture

Central aisle

Brightness. Skylights. Track lighting.

Artwork: windows, furnishings, reservation of Blessed Sacrament, statue(s)

Space for choir and instrumentalists

Flexible sound to accommodate cantor, instrumentalists, announcements

Carpet

Sacristy

Vesting case with drawers and cabinets for sacred vessels.

Closets for vestments

Locked storage for supplies

Sacrarium (old one sealed)

Bathroom/hospitality for meetings and visiting clergy

Campus Ministry Workroom

Work sessions for retreats

Storage for files

Storage for supplies

Bulletin boards

Work table

Work area to include computer, TV/VCR, slide projection

Office/Private meeting room

Private telephone access

Counseling/spiritual direction

Private meeting area

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#9. Principal letter of recommendation.



Elk County Christian High School

600 Maurus Street, St. Marys, Pennsylvania 15857 Phone: (814) 834-7800

April, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with full and complete awareness of the demands and talents required of a school administrator that I give my highest recommendation to Fr. James Faluszczak. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Fr. Jim over the past four years as his building Principal, as a teaching colleague, and as a loyal friend. Fr. Jim is a well-educated professional, a gifted communicator, and a person of tremendous integrity.

I have been most impressed by Fr. Jim's passion for learning. The very first time I met him he expressed a genuine interest in the pursuit of a knowledge base that would allow him the opportunity to someday assume the duties and responsibilities associated with school leadership. Shortly thereafter he enrolled in the Duquesne University Master program. I was fortunate to assist the Duquesne University Program Coordinator, Dr. Wil Barber, in the instruction of Fr. Jim's Orientation to Administration course as well as his Pupil Personnel course. In both instances I found his insight, his willingness to apply acquired knowledge, and his preparation for class to be of the highest standard. Fr. Jim lives out the life-long learning perspective that is known to be absolutely vital to effective school leadership.

Additionally, I truly admire and respect Fr. Jim's ability to communicate his ideas in both the written and verbal venue. He is one of the finest homilists I have encountered in my twenty-two year tenure at Elk County Christian High School and has shown himself to be adept at tailoring a message to students of any age as well as our school's senior citizen Golden Graduates. Time and again he has presented innovative ideas, compassionate pleas, and moving interpretations. His wit, humor, and willingness to enjoy the moment only serve to enhance the very active interaction he maintains with his intended audience. I am certain that this masterful style of communication will allow him to appropriately and successfully address his faculty, his student body, the community, and the parent group of the school he eventually comes to serve as the identified leader.

Because of his open and honest style of communication, Fr. Jim – the person, has tremendous credibility with those he encounters. In fact, Fr. Jim served as my trusted sounding board and brain-trust on many occasions as a result of my sincere belief in his broad based knowledge, his deep seated integrity, and his uncompromising desire to do what was best for the students of our school. Fr. Jim always challenged me to reflect more seriously about decisions and issues because of his own ability to combine critical thinking with a very moral and principle centered approach. Moreover, he can always be counted on to lend his supportive presence and thoughtful comments to trying circumstances and difficult situations. I am confident Fr. Jim will exhibit the level of care, concern, and commitment that is required of an effective administrator.

Accordingly, I encourage you to give complete consideration to Fr. Jim for membership in the leadership team of your school. He has the intellectual capacity, the communication skill set, and the personal touch that combine to allow me to work proudly alongside him as a friend and colleague in school leadership.

Sincerely,

James E. Wortman

Jame ? Worms

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Theology Teacher & Campus Minister Elk County Catholic High School

#10. Headmaster letter of recommendation.



Elk County Christian High School 600 Maurus Street St. Marys, Pennsylvania 15857 Telephone - School - 814-834-7800 John W. Kowach - Headmaster

April 24, 2001

Dr. W. L. Barber, Ph.D. School of Education Duquesne University Pittsburgh, PA 15282-0502

Dear Dr. Barber:

I am very proud to be able to write this letter of recommendation for Father James Faluszczak, a professional colleague and personal friend who is currently in the process of completing the administrative certification program at Duquesne University. Father Faluszczak, who is presently serving as the Campus Minister of Elk County Christian High School, has been able to effectively utilize the strategy techniques and experiences secured at Duquesne to enhance the entire spiritual and educational climate at our school in a very positive and progressive manner.

Father Faluszczak was assigned to Elk County Christian High School four years ago. At approximately the same time, he entered the certification program at Duquesne University. What has been most impressive about Father Faluszczak's professional development is that he has been able to immediately incorporate what he has learned into practice at our school. His administrative responsibilities at Elk County Christian have given him the opportunity to implement, motivate, articulate, and coordinate. I can honestly state that he has actively engaged in every component of the School Principalship Activity List. Furthermore, he has completed these activities with enthusiasm and determination. Father Faluszczak's experiences have certainly prepared him for any administrative or supervisory challenge or demand.

Finally, I would also like to share a few personal reflections about Father Faluszczak. Over the past few years, he has become a very close friend who has blessed my life through professional and personal support. I truly admire Father Faluszczak for his devotion to his faith, his dedication to his students, and his vision for the future. He is a role model for all who wish to lead a truly fulfilled and meaningful life.

Sincerely, John Kowarl

John W. Kowach Headmaster

NB: I have 400+ supporting documents from my tenure as Theology Teacher and Campus Minister for Elk County Catholic High School.

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