

**St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL**  
**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**December 7, 2011**

**Members Present:** Barbara Burkhardt, Kim Cernek, Tom Cordaro, Desmond Curran, Gus Fischer, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Divia Ludwig, Steve Schroeder, Sue Schroeder, Terry Wagner, Larry Williams

**Members Absent:** Dan Dulik

Pastoral Council President Desmond Curran called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8 at SMMP. Barbara Burkhardt opened tonight's meeting with an Advent prayer service.

In an effort to help shorten tonight's meeting time, Desmond had requested that committees electronically submit their reports prior to tonight's meeting for advance review by the Council.

**APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2011 MINUTES:**

**The Pastoral Council approved the minutes from November 1, 2011, with Sue Schroeder moving and Steve Schroeder seconding.** These minutes, which also include the Commission reports, will now be posted to the Council's online web page. Meanwhile, Council Secretary Larry Williams has already submitted a summary of the November minutes working draft to the parish bulletin.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** While Desmond stressed the importance for Council Members to thoroughly read the weekly parish bulletin, he noted that the bulletin is not the only information source to consult for current information and announcements.

**Earth Flag Presentation (1/8/12 – 9 a.m. Mass):** SMMP will be presented with its Earth Flag at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on 1/8/12, in recognition of its recycling efforts and overall environmental concern. This presentation will be made by a DuPage County Board Member, who is also a SMMP parishioner. The parish has recently participated in a free voluntary audit by the DuPage County non-profit organization S.C.A.R.C.E (School and Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education) and has initiated greater "green" steps as a result of this. Council Member Sue Schroeder is a member of the parish Earth Care Committee.

**World Peace Day Interfaith Service (1/1/12):** Tom Cordaro, Justice/Outreach Minister, requested that SMMP again co-sponsor the World Peace Day Interfaith Service, which will be held on 1/1/12. There will again be a variety of faith community participants, including all five Naperville Catholic parishes. With minimal cost needed to co-sponsor this, Tom requested that SMMP again provide the photocopied programs.

**Barbara Burkhardt moved, with Gus Fischer seconding, that SMMP should again co-sponsor the 2012 World Peace Day Interfaith Service, with the Council**

**unanimously approving.** Additional information about this interfaith service will appear in the parish bulletin shortly.

**2012 Diocesan Annual Appeal:** Fr. Paul reported that the Diocese of Joliet's new bishop, Bishop R. Daniel Conlon, will be taking a new approach for the 2012 Joliet Diocesan Annual Service Appeal. This will be held during the Lenten season for the first time and will also involve some of the parish youth.

In addition, Fr. Paul also stated that SMMP had met its Diocesan Annual Appeal goal in 2011 for the first time since his becoming Pastor at SMMP. He also noted that Bishop Conlon will be visiting SMMP for the Sacrament of Confirmation on 4/20/12.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING # 1, PT. 2 -- "BREAKING OUT OF FEELING THE STRESS OF ANNUAL BUDGET CUTS":**

In an effort to encourage focused dialogue with Council, Staff, and the Commissions, Council Members who are not Commission representatives were encouraged to attend (with advance notice) upcoming Commission meetings when possible. Such efforts were recommended to encourage working together "as a parish family" and to help with collectively identifying parish priorities and then deciding how to best match limited resources with these priorities, Desmond and Terry Wagner reported that Desmond's recent attendance at the 11/10/11 Administration Commission meeting was well-received and appreciated, and Dan Dulik's attendance at Christian Education Commission's recent meeting was likewise very favorable. Council was asked to consider ways of better communicating within the parish, also extending "personal touches," e.g. by handwritten note or personal invitation, when appropriate.

**Church Lighting:** Desmond reported back to Council about the 11/10/11 Administration Commission's consideration of the church lighting issue. According to Terry Wagner, installation of new lighting above the altar (at approximately \$4,000) is now scheduled to be done next Tuesday or Wednesday by Greco Electric. However, new lighting for the rest of the church is estimated to be very expensive, with the last estimate from several years ago for lighting the whole church being in excess of \$100,000, with installation also requiring temporary removal of the church pews. It was reported that the subject of church lighting came up at the 10:45 a.m. Mass last Sunday, with an off-hand comment by Deacon Ken about the need for lighting work throughout the church receiving applause during his homily. Council recommended tabling further discussion concerning what to do about church lighting until next month's meeting, awaiting feedback about the new sanctuary lighting, which should be fully operational by then. It was also suggested that a future bulletin article could request that parishioners submit comments and concerns about church lighting by e-mail.

**AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR FUNDRAISING:** [*SMMP Fundraising Committee November Report – Submitted by Steve Schroeder 11/3/11— electronically sent in advance, a copy of which is shown hereto*].

Terry Wagner, Finance Committee Chair, thanked Council for its suggested input about “St. Margaret Mary Parish Fiscal 2012 - July 2011 to September 2011 3-Month Interim Financial Report.” This report will be included in this coming Sunday’s parish bulletin.

Steve Schroeder updated Council about new parish fundraising initiatives. Included in tonight’s discussion was whether or not free estate planning seminars could be offered to SMMP parishioners at the Parish. Council expressed concern about possible legal problems and perceived conflicts of interest with this. Steve Schroeder offered to contact the Huck Bouma Law Firm, Wheaton, which had expressed interest in conducting such a free seminar, to obtain a proposed outline for the Council’s review. Council also discussed contacting the Diocese of Joliet’s law firm to find out more about possible estate planning seminars through them. Council concurred that it could not endorse a particular law firm, should not be in the practice of giving out legal advice, and should at least issue a disclaimer if an estate planning seminar would be offered. Meanwhile, Council expressed its preference for the following bequest reminder wording to be included weekly in the parish bulletin: **“Please remember the good works of our parish in your will. Contact Father Paul for information on how you can accomplish this.”**

While monetary donations for Christmas flowers/decorations, along with special Christmas season music, are currently being requested, information about the success of these collections were not yet available for tonight’s meeting. Terry will report on these collections, however, at the January meeting. Council acknowledged Fr. Paul’s well-written recent letter to the parish, which expressed his gratitude, along with also noting the parish’s financial challenges.

As a donation, the Knights of Columbus have provided SMMP with the priest’s large new translation altar missal, reducing the additional expenses the parish will have to incur this year due to the new translation. Meanwhile, the Christian Worship Commission is still reviewing the total additional parish costs this year attributable to the new translation. Council recommends delaying targeted donation appeals to pay for the cost of the new translation until we know more about what those costs are, until we have an idea about how the targeted appeals for music and flowers went, and so we can further consider the manner of any such request, if made.

**AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNICATION:** [*Communication Committee Report – December 2011* was electronically submitted in advance by Desmond Curran, a copy of which is shown hereto].

According to Desmond, several actions are already under way, especially by one of the sub-groups created from the initial communication focus group attendees. This communications subgroup already has a well-outlined plan for presenting a series of four stories about different persons and/or programs within the parish for presentation in draft form by January, with many communication media being considered. The framework put together by this subgroup, which could be helpful for other

communication initiatives, will be send around to Council Members prior to the next meeting.

Council also agreed that the parish web site needs to be more “vibrant,” readily telling our parish story -- it should also contain important and readily accessible information, specifically needed by various groups. Desmond advised that, after speaking with those involved with the parish website, it would be helpful to receive guidance from the Council as to a communication plan before changes to the website are undertaken. Sue Schroeder raised the following possible ideas that could help form the framework for a communication strategy as it pertained to the website: a) the site should draw people to our site; b) the site should energize our parish; and c) the site should let people know who we are. Council will continue its discussion in January about the parish website improvement.

Communication focus group member Ed Dooley produced and submitted seven new possible parish logo designs, involving much hard work and creativity. While the Council by itself is not ready to make a new logo design decision for the parish, it expressed interest in “moving forward,” with a process seeking to energize and involve the parish with this, including the following:

- 1.) forming a logo sub-committee, with Sue Schroeder and Kim Cernek heading up this formation process
- 2.) inviting other parishioners to also submit additional parish logo designs
- 3.) including Ed Dooley’s logo submissions in the parish’s logo selection process
- 4.) expressing Council’s great appreciation to Ed Dooley for his logo design submission

**PARISH VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER – “LET’S CELEBRATE” (1/21/12):**

*[Let’s Celebrate – SMMP Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, January 21, 2011 – Roles and Responsibilities – Budget \$1,500 Total -- electronically sent in advance by Dan Dulik, a copy of which is attached hereto].*

In Dan Dulik’s absence tonight, Divia Ludwig helped update Council on the upcoming Appreciation Dinner’s plans. Divia reported that the planned caterer, Las Palmas Restaurant-Naperville, still needs to receive a 30% refundable deposit in order for it to “lock in” their prices and coverage for this date. Dan and/or she will need to submit a written request to the parish Business Manager and Pastor for this as soon as possible, also indicating the amount needed and to whom. Divia stated that she and her family have now very favorably sampled some of the suggested catering entrees and side dishes at their home. Plans are being made for an estimated Appreciation Dinner attendance of 200-220, with attendees being asked to optionally bring a dessert to share. Nancy Rutkowski will also be contacted for some assistance with recruiting additional dessert providers. In keeping with this dinner’s Mexican fiesta theme, non-alcoholic margaritas will also be served, although it was suggested that it might make sense to confirm that alcoholic margaritas cannot be served. Confirmation has not yet been received from Brian Pelz about parish musicians’ performing at this event. Plans

for a student Mexican folk dance group performance are now canceled, since this group has requested a performance fee – there is no money budgeted for such a performance.

Tom Cordaro (Communications Coordinator) reported that all is going well with the communication for this event.

*Following this, Council took a break from 8:40-8:50 p.m., also enjoying refreshments provided by Barbara Burkhardt.*

### **COMMISSION REPORTS:**

**Administration:** [*Administration Commission – Minutes of Thursday, November 10, 2011* – was electronically submitted in advance by Mike Prus, a copy of which is attached hereto].

Terry Wagner, Finance Committee Head and Administration Commission Representative, reported that the 3-Month Interim Financial Report (July 2011-September 2011) will appear in this Sunday's parish bulletin. There was also some discussion tonight about whether or not this year's Christmas special collections might be lower, due to Christmas occurring on a Sunday. For those parishioners using ParishPay automated giving, 12/25/11 will be handled as a standard Sunday deduction, with the option to also make a separate contribution for Christmas.

Fr. Paul was thanked for writing the recent letter which was mailed to parishioners before Thanksgiving. Additional news included: a successful transfer to the new software program; and Parish Bookkeeper Pat Henke's recent return to work, following an injury.

Terry stated that he will be providing a calendar and monthly outline at the January meeting to be used by the Council and Commissions for the upcoming 2012-13 parish budget preparation. In February, he will provide goals and guidelines for this new budget preparation.

**Christian Worship (CWC):** [*Christian Worship Commission Report - December, 2011* was electronically sent in advance by Gus Fischer, a copy of which is attached hereto].

Gus Fischer, CWC Representative, reported that 24 new altar servers were recently trained, with Deacon Ken Miles reminding the new servers about their need to actually serve at the Masses for which they signed up. Gus also recognized Mary Straub's efforts to schedule family members together (as servers, lectors, and Eucharistic ministers) whenever possible at the same Mass. Gus noted that Sunday Mass greeters' posts now include the Narthex and both church entrance doors. In addition, it was also noted that the Narthex, as part of the worship area, should not contain tables used for sign-up's and sales – rather, these tables should be moved to the Library and to near the other main church entrance.

Feedback received about the new Mass translations indicates that this transition process is thought to be generally going well. It was also noted that somebody had recently removed [or stolen] many of the new tri-fold Mass translation guides [provided by the Diocese] from within the church, requiring the parish to incur an added expense to obtain new guides.

**Christian Education (CEC):** [*Christian Education Commission December Report – 12/6/11* was electronically submitted in advance by Kim Cernek, a copy of which is attached hereto].

Kim Cernek, CEC Representative, had submitted a detailed report on recent Commissions activities. She noted that the Commission will meet with Catholic Schools Week representatives to better coordinate 2013's plans, because ASCA (All Saints Catholic Academy) will celebrate during the first week in February and SMMP during a different week in 2012. Kim reported that students at ASCA are currently presenting Las Posadas during Advent. Lastly, the November Men's CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish) retreat weekend went very well, with 17 registered participants – Fr. Paul and Sr. Madeline have indicated their preference for the Men's CRHP weekend to be held once every two years rather than annually.

**Christian Service (CSC):** [*CSC Report December* was electronically submitted in advance by Tom Cordaro, a copy of which is attached hereto]. There were no additional questions posed to Divia Ludwig, CSC Representative, about this report.

**MID-YEAR STAFF/COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING (1/7/12):** Council finalized plans for this workshop meeting to begin at 10:30 a.m., include a working lunch, and conclude at 1:30 p.m. on 1/7/12 (Saturday). Tom Cordaro, Desmond, and Fr. Paul will plan and execute the workshop agenda, which will include re-visiting the original parish goals for 2011-12, which were generated at the Staff/Council Workshop held on 8/20/11 and considering further the question of an overall communication plan for the parish. These three main parish goals for 2011-12 include:

- To enhance communication;
- To study ways to deal with our parish financial situation
- To further energize our community

**OTHER:** For next month's meeting, Council is asked to consider and be prepared to discuss the following: ***How can we listen and be more attentive to our parish?*** Desmond noted that this strategic communication goal requires listening and not just talking.

**FINAL "WHIP AROUND":** Comments included:

- "Very efficient new format" [with Committee Reports sent in advance]

- “Great ending at 9:15 p.m. – we got a lot done!”
- “Good meeting!”
- “Appreciated receiving written reports in advance – these were helpful.”
- “Much improved meeting.”
- “Thanks for the feedback – keep your comments coming.”

**CLOSING:** Barbara Burkhardt closed tonight’s meeting with a Taizé prayer.

The meeting concluded at 9:25 p.m.

***The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> in Room 8 (St. Margaret Mary Parish), starting at 7:00 p.m.***

*January Opening and Closing Prayer: Steve Schroeder  
January Refreshments: Sue Schroeder*

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury  
Recording Secretary

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**SMMP Fundraising Committee  
November Report  
Submitted by Steve Schroeder  
11/30/11**

***New Fundraising Initiative:***

- Donations for flowers for Christmas masses have been requested. An announcement was in the 11/20 Sunday bulletin as well as a separate envelop was included with the package of donation envelopes.
- Donations to defray the costs for the Christmas music programs will be requested. A bulletin announcement will appear in the bulletin Sunday, 12/4/11.
- Bequests – With the help of Tony Brandolino, Chief Development Officer, Diocese of Joliet, we are working up sample bulletin articles to continuously appear in the bulletin to remind parishioners to remember St. Margaret Mary Parish in their will. Below are two samples of the wording. We are working up the clip art to accompany the article. Tony Brandolino has offered to meet with Father Paul to “coach” him when questions, issues or concerns come up regarding Bequests.

***Sample Fundraising Wording:***

1. Please remember our Church in your will. Contact Father Paul for information on how you can include St. Margaret Mary.
2. Please remember the good works of our parish in your will. Contact Father Paul for information on how you can accomplish this.

***Future fundraising under consideration***

- Partnering with a location grocery store, restaurant and/or retail store. **Volunteers?**

**Question for Council to address:**

The Huck Bouma Law Firm recently presented an Estate Planning seminar in Lisle attended by a parishioner. After inquiry by parishioner, the Huck Bouma Law Firm is interested in given a present to the parish. However, we believe there are or could be legal concerns and perceived conflicts of interest if Council would agree/approve this event.

Is there a way to allow the Estate Planning service to be offered to the Parish without legal or perceived concerns that Parish Council is steering parishioners to create or amend their will to simply add St. Margaret Mary to their will?

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**Communication Committee Report  
December 2011**

Following up on the 20 persons who attended the communication focus group meeting in late October, there are three specific actions that are already underway, relating to communication:

1. A subgroup has been organized and has already met to discuss how to more effectively communicate our story;
2. A subgroup has begun to further explore whether adjustments to the nature and frequency of our hospitality Sundays are workable and are reviewing the potential for a pilot program; and
3. A parishioner who is a graphic artist suggested that the parish could use a logo and created several possible versions of a logo, which versions are included in a separate e-mail circulated to Council.

Questions for the Council to consider are at the bottom of this report.

The folks involved with the subgroup pertaining to communicating our story have a well-outlined plan and timeline to present a series of four stories about different persons and/or programs within the parish that they plan to have in draft form after the holidays and will meet again in January. They plan to present these stories in a variety of media that includes but is by no means limited to the bulletin. Each of the stories is intended to highlight some of the wonderful people and programs we have in our parish.

At the Council's direction at the last meeting, one of the focus group members interested in exploring the enhancement of our Hospitality Sundays was contacted along with the person who currently helps organize the Hospitality Sundays. Both persons know each other and planned to speak about the topic within the next month or so. Additionally, the focus group members plan to review the process underway at the next Hospitality Sunday in December and consider, among other things, how the additional staffing needs and costs required for more Hospitality Sundays could be met.

Once they have completed their review, a proposal is expected to be presented for Council's review about the pilot program.

Enclosed in a separate e-mail are proposed logos designed by Ed Dooley, a graphic artist and member of the parish.

The communication focus group also had ideas about improving the website, our e-mail system, about using Facebook, and about improving the bulletin. A parishioner currently involved in the parish website and e-mail system was contacted and will receive further input about the ideas suggested and the potential volunteers suggested as well. He suggested that it would be helpful to receive input from Council as to the direction for improvements to communication methods (for example, how should the website be improved?). The communication focus group also discussed the fact that a comprehensive communication strategy could be a good idea as it sometimes appears that the parish proceeds in a disjointed fashion that makes it difficult for energy to build. An effort will also be made to further the discussion about suggested improvements to the bulletin after the holidays. Finally, the communication focus group had thoughts about ways to improve communication as a whole, with the need for an emphasis on personal or special communication methods.

Questions for consideration by the Council at the 12/6 Council meeting:

1. Should the Council develop an overall parish communication plan or strategy? If so, how should that be done?
  2. Does the Council think it is good time to consider a parish logo? If so, should all parishioners be invited to participate in the process and should logos other than the proposed logos prepared by parishioner Ed Dooley be considered? If so, how do we take into consideration Ed's efforts in getting the ball rolling?
  3. What is the Council's thought about the possibility of enrolling the parish as a whole in Facebook?
- Submitted by Desmond Curran

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**Let's Celebrate – SMMP Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**  
**January 21, 2012**  
**Roles and Responsibilities**  
**Budget \$1,500 Total**

1. Food and Beverage Coordinators (**Divia and Larry**)
  - a. Finalize Mexican menu and pay restaurant
  - b. Determine how we want to handle deserts.
    - i. Restaurant to provide
    - ii. Reach out to parents of RE kids, other parishioners etc.
  - c. Confirm men's club will supply beer and wine
  - d. Plan/purchase other beverages – i.e.: soda, non alcoholic margaritas, Sangria

- e. Recruit servers and develop/manage schedule
- f. Purchase cups, plates etc...

**2. Communications (Tom)**

- a. Develop save the date and put in bulletin (ASAP)
- b. Create invite and put in bulletin 5-6 weeks out
- c. Manage tables in back of Church (tentative)
- d. Coordinate room set-up with Mike P. based on numbers

**3. Entertainment (Dan and Divia)**

- a. Choir -
  - i. **Update 12/1 – Sent email to Brian P. Waiting for confirmation.**
- b. Other related entertainment
  - i. **Divia** looking in cost of dancers. Will need to see if we can afford.

**4. Decorations and Logistics (Barbara, Sue, Kim)**

- a. Coordinate with Mary Lou Krause
- b. Table Cloths
- c. Other themed decorations and favors
- d. Name Tags
- e. Coat Check Plan and recruitment
- f. Babysitting??

**5. Set-up and Cleanup Coordinator (Dan)**

- a. Recruit volunteers for set-up and cleanup

- Submitted by Dan Dulik

**SAINT MARGARET MARY PARISH**  
**ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Thursday, November 10, 2011**

Members Present: Tom Hill, Jeff Jameson, Chuck Marquis, Michael Prus, Terry Wagner.

Members Absent: Klaus Rummer.

Also Attending: Desmond Curran.

**1. Opening Prayer:** Led by Chuck Marquis.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the September 8 meeting were approved, without changes, “by acclamation.”

### **3. Discussion/Decision Items:**

#### A. Desmond Curran

The commission welcomed Desmond, who currently serves as the president of the Pastoral Council. Desmond joins us tonight to encourage communications between the Council and the commission. Members of the Council will be attending meetings of other commissions and committees in the near future. He provided information on the Council’s current work, and learned about the work of Administration.

#### B. Church Lighting Above Sanctuary

No further word yet from Greco Electric, since conversations at the time of signing the contract. Equipment has been ordered, and they are waiting for word from suppliers. Mike agreed to call Greco to check on progress.

The commission discussed possible next steps for enhancing church lighting, after the completion of this project. Tom agreed to follow up with conversation with Greco. The commission discussed issues of finding funding sources for future projects.

### **4. Member Reports and Discussion**

A. Chuck Marquis: Chuck congratulated Terry for the Finance Committee’s recent annual report in the parish bulletin.

B. Terry Wagner, Finance Committee & Link to Pastoral Council: 1) No financial reports are currently available. The Finance Committee continues to monitor collections, which are somewhat lower than budget. 2) Through the bulletin, the Council will have a special appeal for Christmas flowers for the church this year. It is hoped that through this appeal, parishioners will become more aware of our financial stress. 3) Finance will be auditing the parish’s books in the near future. 4) Terry encouraged commission members to attend the Appreciation event on January 21.

C. Michael Prus, Business Manager: 1) Mike has taken on the bookkeeping functions recently, as Pat Henke recovers from injury. Pat is expected to return shortly.

D. Tom Hill, Chairperson & Building Committee: No report.

E. Jeff Jameson, At Large Delegate: No further report.

F. Klaus Rummer: Absent.

### **5. New Business: None.**

**6. Closing Prayer:** Led by Jeff Jameson.

- Submitted by Mike Prus

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## **Christian Worship Commission Report December, 2011**

**Altar Servers:** Two training sessions were held this month. 20 were trained the first session, and 4 the second.

**Baptism Assistant:** We had 6 Baptisms this last month.

**Musical Ministry:** Additional work has been done on the organ. John is working with the man who built the organ.  
Both choirs are preparing for the Christmas Masses.

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Sign up sheets for Christmas are located in the library.

**Art & Environment:** The new Advent wreath is completed. Care must be taken when lighting the candles to prevent another fire. The Church will be decorated for Christmas on December 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:15 PM

**Sacristan Ministers:** No Report

**Linen Launderers:** No Report

**Greeters:** We have added some additional greeters at the 10:45 Masses.  
We have moved some of the greeters to the two entrance doors to greet as the people enter the church.  
At the last meeting it was asked if any Mass had a substantial loss in attendance. Looking over the record, the 9:00 AM Mass has had the greatest loss in attendance. 454 -370 - 336

Barb Ryan gave a short presentation on Rediscover Catholicism Book Series.

Deacon Ken presented information on the new sanctuary lighting. He also informed us of the “CWC policy that the narthex is part of the worship space for people to congregate before and after Mass, and is NOT to be used for sign-ups or sales.” Another policy is “that only 1 extended announcement is given a month, and only once for an event.”

Submitted by Gus Fischer

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**Christian Education Commission**

**December Report**

**Submitted by Kim Cernek**

**12/05/11**

*Religious Education, PreK-Grade 5*

- 102 children made their first Reconciliation on Tuesday, November 29 and Wednesday, November 30.
- Fourth graders have prepared and are in the process of presenting the ornaments on the Jesse Tree in the library near the Upper Room.
- Our Advent almsgiving project is to collect paper towels, hand sanitizer, and cash for *Almost Home Kids*.

*Junior High, Journey*

- Teens helped pack food on Harvest Sunday on November 13.
- Teens are collecting toys for *Operation WRAP* to be held on Monday, December 12.

*Senior High, Quest*

- Confirmation interviews are underway.  
35 adults and 9 teens attended the Peer Retreat at Dickson Valley November 4-6.
- The Military Ministry Veteran’s Day prayer service was held on Thursday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m.

*Adult Faith Formation*

- Frank Bucaro’s presentation titled “Sunday Is All About Monday” was so well received that audience requested that the speaker return next year.
- Father Richard Fragomeni will present our Parish Mission in January. Father Tom McCarthy will present the 2013 Parish Mission.

*All Saints Catholic Academy*

- Sixth graders will present Las Posadas this Advent with nine days of visits to K-5 classrooms.
- All grade levels are collecting donations for Hesed House.

- A family day of service is planned as an alternate to a day off from school on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 16.
- Marketing Committee is preparing Catholic Schools Week Mass at SMMP the last week of January.
- Collecting “Change for Change” for a Mexican orphanage.

CEC will meet next on Thursday, January 12, 2012.

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## **CSC Commission Report – December**

**BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE:** Letters were mailed by Father Paul to over 40 families who have had a loss in our Parish to invite them to our Annual Remembrance Mass 12/15/ at 7:00PM; Our Ministers are busy making follow-up calls to see how many are coming and to receive their “enduring qualities” to be read during the Mass. We are not having a regular meeting in December as we all meet to help out in preparation for this Mass and will. Meet again on Jan 18<sup>th</sup>.

**CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE:** The meeting of Nov. 8, 2011 was called to order by the Chair, Charles Martinez, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The following requests were reviewed and approved: Franciscan Outreach , Teen Parent Connection, and Senior Home Sharing, Inc. \$22,650 remained in the budget after the approvals. The following requests are being evaluated: Will County, Institute for Women Today, Upendo Village, Voluntary Missionary Movement, Northern Illinois Food Bank, West Suburban Association for the Retarded, St. Patrick’s Residence, Naperville Cares, House of the Good Shepherd, and Samaritan Interfaith. The meeting was closed with a prayer.

**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE:** The response from parishioners to our invitation to participate in this year’s program has been good. We have equaled or slightly surpassed last year’s participation. Sign up Weekend took place on Nov. 19-20 and was well received. Our gift drop off day will be Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

**MENS CLUB:** The men's club met November 15th in the parish center. Sixty-five men attended the meeting. A report was given on the very successful autumn couples dinner held November 5th where 83 people attended. Mary Runger presented a report on new book distribution and program beginning in January. Volunteers for Christmas nativity hay bale duty was requested and successful. The men's club 2011-12 budget was presented and accepted by the membership. Bottom line approximately 40% covers monthly meals and 60% is given to the parish and community groups. Next month state representative Mike Connolly will be our guest speaker. All men of the parish are encouraged to attend.

**PEACE & JUSTICE ADVISORY WORKING GROUP:** November our group organized a Christmas Fair Trade Gift Fair using fair trade goods provided by Catholic Relief Services. It went very well and we ran out of many items. Next time we will get more. We also organized the second Parish Social Mission week which focused on religious freedom around the world. We got 246 parishioners to sign postcards directed to Rep. Judy Biggert asking her to support the appointment of a special envoy on the rights of religious freedom.

**PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE:** No activity for the committee this reporting period. A story by Gerry Rotko, "After you left planned parenthood Saturday we had an experience that I was never privileged to witness before. After the large group of teens and their adult leaders left in a Christian church bus there were five of us left standing across the street from PP's drive and a silver car came out with two young girls. I had see them go in. The car stopped and one got out crying and told us she had an appointment to have an abortion and changed her mind. The driver was also crying. After all the hugs and praise was shared she said she wasn't sure if she would keep the child or put it up for adoption. One of our group, (Randy) gave her information for Womansleaf and directed them how to get to the place. It really felt great. Picks up your spirits. Gets rid of a lot of discouragement. I've been going out there since before it opened for business. Just thought you'd like to know."

**SCOUTS:** Troop 507 provided the color guard for the SMMP Veteran's Day Service on November 10th.

**ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER EMPLOYMENT GROUP:** We had a meeting at SMMP on November 2<sup>nd</sup> that included eleven men and women plus four volunteers. Scott Kane spend an hour and a half giving the group many hints for all phases of everyone's job search. He is also with the Grey Hair Management Group.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:** This month we had 5 cases, plus the usual food and gas vouchers

- helped parishioner with utilities
- family with 3 children paid a hotel room for 3 days before man started new job
- family with four kids helped with rent
- helped parishioner with utilities
- helped lady on disability with rent

Check book balance is shrinking, but we always seem to get enough to help

Submitted by Tom Cordaro

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**CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION -- Late Committee Report Submissions**  
**Daybreak Report for Dec.:** At our meeting in Oct., we met with Ron and Mary Ellen Durbin. This couple was one of the originators of the Transitional Housing Program. Their Daybreak Transitional Housing Ministry has been in existence for 22 years and has helped 72 families. Their program is unusual in many ways. First, they accommodate 5 families, one of which is a large family, as someone has donated the use of a home. Most programs can only accommodate families with 1-3 children. Secondly, they combine two transitional housing programs – Catholic Charities and Bridge Communities. Like SMMP, they hold monthly meetings where all the families are discussed and suggestions, advice, and support can be given. They are proud of the fact that they have never missed holding a meeting. Most of the volunteers for their program come from St. Joan of Arc Church. Their primary

funding is by donations from parishioners and the parish. While St. Joan is closely connected to this Daybreak Program, it is overseen by the Benedictine Sisters. Ron and Mary Ellen Durbin truly believe they are doing God's work in helping the poor through Daybreak.

Our guest is still seeking employment and attempting to further her education.

The parish generously donated food gift certificates for our family for Thanksgiving.

The Contemporary Choir has once again adopted our Daybreak family for Christmas. We appreciate their generosity.

We did not hold a Nov. meeting.

- Submitted by Pat McAuliffe

### **SHARING PARISH REPORT**

Turkeys and food certificates for Thanksgiving were distributed to Sacred Heart and St. Nicholas Parish on November 22.

There has been a good interest in the opportunity for purchase of home-made tamales, with sixteen dozen being ordered to date. The first delivery will take place during the first week in December. This is a fundraiser to assist with hospital bills for a member of a Sacred Heart family.

- Submitted by Martha Rose

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