

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
January 3, 2012

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

Members Absent: Kim Cernek

Pastoral Council President Desmond Curran called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Room 8 at SMMP. Steve Schroeder offered an opening prayer to begin tonight's meeting.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2011 MINUTES:

The Pastoral Council approved the amended minutes from December 7, 2011, with Gus Fischer moving, Larry Williams seconding, and the Council approving – these minutes included a correction to p. 2 (“2012 Diocesan Annual Appeal” section). The amended December 2011 minutes, which also include the Commission and Committee reports, will now be posted to the Council's online web page. Meanwhile, Council Secretary Larry Williams has already submitted a summary of the December minutes working draft to the parish bulletin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Desmond extended wishes to the Council for a good New Year, with his hopes that each member had enjoyed a peaceful Christmas season with some quality time, rather than just simply “rushing around.” He especially noted the excellent and meaningful *Christmas Unplugged*, which was held at SMMP on 12/23/11.

While apologizing for the lateness in his sending out a couple of e-mails to the Council in the late afternoon today, Desmond also reported that he had also received a late update from parishioner Mary Runger about *Rediscover Catholicism* book distribution and book series program.

REDISCOVER CATHOLICISM Book Series: As reported to Desmond by Mary Runger, all 500 copies of the *Rediscover Catholicism* books [purchased anonymously by two parishioner families at a greatly reduced bulk price for distribution to parish households] have now been distributed. An additional 65 copies have now been ordered, including approximately 20 copies being held in reserve for the 5-session book seminar series. Registration for this book seminar series is currently underway [sign-up through 1/18/12], with the initial session scheduled for 1/22/12.

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR FUNDRAISING: [*SMMP Fundraising Committee – November Report, Submitted by Steve Schroeder-12/22/11* was electronically submitted in advance, a copy of which is attached hereto].

Bequests: While Steve Schroeder reported that he has not yet heard back from the Diocese, Tom Cordaro is working on a parish bulletin article reminder about bequests: ***“Please remember the good works of our parish in your will. Contact Father Paul for information on how you can accomplish this.”*** Although Tony Brandolino, the Diocesan Chief Development Officer, had offered to “coach” Fr. Paul about discussing bequests with parishioners, Fr. Paul expressed his readiness to answer any such questions directed to him about this topic.

Christmas Flowers/ Music - Special Collections: Meanwhile, Terry Wagner, Finance Committee Head and Administration Commission Representative, reported that special targeted collections yielded \$3,160 for church Christmas flowers (this collection having started before Thanksgiving and having included a special donation envelope) and \$1,070 for Christmas season music (this collection begun at a later date as requested through parish bulletin articles alone). Council also noted that these donors should be thanked personally and in the parish bulletin. It was also noted that the 2011/12 budget neither included funds for Christmas flowers nor music, as well as for Easter flowers and music. The Council expressed interest in such targeted collections being held again for flowers and music at Easter time. Some Council Members also requested learning what amount was actually spent for Christmas flowers and music, although it was clarified that no linkage had been made between donations and expenditures for these items. Parishioners were simply asked to help defray the costs of these items. Terry will contact Mike Prus, Parish Business Manager, about this and will report back to Council. In addition, Council also recommended that a special envelope for Christmas music be included in the mailed 2012 envelope packets.

Estate Planning Seminar(s): Steve has asked the Huck Bouma Law Firm for a sample agenda regarding estate planning, with the hope that if approved by Council, (an) estate planning seminar(s) can be offered at no cost. The specifics for an estate planning seminar for parishioners are not yet determined, e.g. about the actual presenters, location, date, and time. He noted that a similar seminar was offered last year by Huck Bouma at the Morton Arboretum. Steve also noted that the Ad Hoc Committee for Fundraising has not met yet during 2012.

New Roman Missal: Gus Fischer, Christian Worship Commission (CWC) Representative, stated that the costs for the new Roman missals have not yet been confirmed and that any plans to seek their funding are still “on hold” due to this. Gus indicated hopes that this cost can be confirmed by the CWC’s meeting date on 1/25/12. It was also noted that the pew cards (to assist the congregation with Mass translation changes) are now being distributed for the Sunday Masses and subsequently collected and locked up after the 12:15 p.m. Sunday Masses. These actions are done in response to the recent disappearance (and possible theft) of the original pew cards, the replacements needing to be purchased by the parish. The Council also requested that the Knights of Columbus be specially thanked for purchasing the priest’s large new translation altar missal, which was quite costly.

New Church Lighting: With the recent installation of new lighting above the altar, Council remarked about this big improvement. Fr. Paul expressed his satisfaction with this new sanctuary lighting, too (although he also reported experiencing some “stage light blindness” difficulty when looking out at the congregation, due to the sanctuary’s new brightness).

Meanwhile, Deacon Ken Miles has recently communicated with the CWC in writing about his willingness to spearhead fundraising for new church lighting (replacing the old, dim, indirect “architectural lighting” within the church, about which numerous Mass attendees have complained). Ken will meet with the Administration Commission about this next week, with Council also expressing interest in inviting him to attend their February meeting.

Among new church lighting fundraising issues raised by Council include the following:

1. Is this the best timing to fund raise for new church lighting?
2. Where does new church lighting fit in with the parish’s other upcoming major replacement needs, e.g. HVAC (scheduled within the next 3 years), church roof (scheduled for 2020), and parking lot (scheduled for 2023) replacement?
3. Can any parish special replacement funds still held in reserve be used toward new church lighting?
4. What would the beginning and ending time, along with overall scope, be for such a fundraising campaign?
5. How could such a project be undertaken when the economy is still down-trending?
6. How might such special targeted fundraising impact parish weekly collections?
7. What would the timetable be for such a project? Having an end time would be important.

Council was in consensus about the following:

- Affirming that Ken Miles can explore about the parish’s interest in supporting and funding new church lighting
- Requesting that Ken Miles report back to the Council about his findings
- Finding the old church lighting report and bid from several years ago

Christmas Collections: Terry reported that \$145,000 was received through the 2011 Christmas collections (with \$95,000 estimated in the 2011/12 budget preparation). He also noted, however, that regular Sunday collections were below budget for 12/25/11 (at \$22,000) and even lower for 12/18/11.

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNICATION: [*Communication Committee Report – January 2012* was electronically submitted in advance by Desmond Curran, a copy of which is shown hereto];

[*Communicating Our Story Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes -- November 29, 2011* was electronically submitted in advance by Tom Cordaro, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Due to the upcoming Mid-Year Staff/Council Workshop planned for 1/7/12, the topic of which will focus on “overall communication strategies in the parish,” Council decided to delay making any new communication-related decisions until after this upcoming workshop. At this upcoming workshop, discussion will especially focus on “what is our [parish’s] special story?” Following this, the special Communications Committee Focus Group will then be requested to reconvene again.

Hospitality Sunday: [*St. Margaret Mary Parish Hospitality Sunday*, prepared by Mary [and Bill] Tevogt, was electronically sent in advance by Desmond Curran, a copy of which is shown hereto].

According to Desmond, parishioner[s] Mary [and Bill] Tevogt had submitted a preliminary plan with new ideas for providing a self-sustaining hospitality program for use after the Sunday Masses. This included encouraging free-will donations for more “upscale” coffee and refreshments. It was also noted that the current Hospitality Sunday program provides free coffee, juice, and refreshments to parishioner participants, although costs to the parish for each Hospitality Sunday’s set-up and clean-up run approximately \$800. The current Hospitality Sunday is offered periodically throughout the year in the lower-level Parish Center after Sunday Masses.

Council’s consensus was that more dialogue is still needed between the current Hospitality Sunday Committee (headed by Cami Prebish) and Mary Tevogt (heading a new “think tank” hospitality group), with Council’s still needing additional information and logistics before any new ideas can be implemented for a proposed trial period. Desmond plans to meet with Mary Tevogt prior to the Council’s February meeting, also encouraging necessary dialogue between the two groups. The current Hospitality Sunday Committee reports to the Christian Service Commission (CSC) under Family Ministry but had reported directly to Pastoral Council previously.

Following this, the Council took a break from 8:20-8:33 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Sue Schroeder.

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

[*Let’s Celebrate – SMMP Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, January 21, 2012 -- Roles and Responsibilities, Budget \$1,500* – update was electronically sent in advance by Dan Dulik, a copy of which is attached hereto].

According to Dan Dulik, plans for this upcoming event are “fairly on track.” Updates, according to Dan, included the following:

- The registration deadline will be extended by 1 week. [The original registration deadline was 1/2/12].
- Final registration numbers still need to be confirmed by Tom Cordaro. All Council Members who will be attending, along with all performing musicians, also need to register in advance. This registration is needed for the final catering count and table set-up.
- The Men's Club will provide beer and wine.
- Brian Pelz, Contemporary Choir Director, has confirmed this performance date with the musicians.
- Kim Cernek (who was unable to attend tonight's meeting) still needs to be re-contacted about dessert and babysitting provisions.
- Money has been requested for the required deposit.
- Council Members are asked to help with set-up on Saturday, January 21st (morning), with Dan confirming this starting time shortly.
- Council Members, along with teen volunteers, will assist with serving and replenishing the catered meal.

2012/13 BUDGET PREPARATION PROCESS: [*Description of Budget Process for Fiscal Year 2012/13 – January 2012 was electronically sent in advance by Terry Wagner, a copy of which is attached hereto*].

Terry reviewed the month-by-month 2012/13 budget preparation process, which was begun last month by the Finance Committee. He also noted that this budget process will be very similar to last year's. Council will review and possibly approve the final budget by May, with submission to the Diocese of Joliet needed by June 1st. Terry also noted that SMMP's 2011/12 budget was submitted to the Diocese a few days late, due to a snowstorm have canceled Council's February 2011 meeting.

In January, the Finance Committee is scheduled to review the budget process with the Pastoral Council, also reviewing the long-term financial model with revised assumptions (projecting through the upcoming six years, e.g. regarding inflation, salaries, repairs, and collections). During this month, the Finance Committee will e-mail the long-term financial model to the Council for discussion at the February Council meeting. Commissions will also start determining their financial needs and priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. Lastly, the Diocese will provide the remaining pertinent information needed for budgeting, e.g. health and liability insurance, diocesan assessment, and salary guidelines.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Administration: Terry Wagner, Administration Commission Representative and Finance Committee Head, reported that the Administration Commission did not meet last month. The new sanctuary lighting was discussed earlier at tonight's meeting (please refer to pp. 2-3 in the 1/3/12 Council Minutes).

Christian Worship (CWC): [*Christian Worship Commission Report December, 2011*]

was electronically sent in advance by Gus Fischer, a copy of which is attached hereto].

Council requested that Gus Fischer, CWC Representative, check about the number of altar servers currently being scheduled (by Mary Straub) per Sunday Mass. Terry Wagner noted that only three servers (rather than four) are currently scheduled per Sunday Mass and that his son is not being scheduled monthly as an altar server.

Fr. Paul noted that he was surprised at how well the Christmas Mass attendees, including many visitors, did with their responses using the new Mass translation. He also noted that the parish is still ordering the same number of soft-cover missalettes, although more seem to be disappearing from the Narthex.

Christian Service (CSC): [*Christian Service Commission Report: January, 2012* was electronically sent in advance by Tom Cordaro, a copy of which is attached hereto].

No additional questions were posed to Divia Ludwig, CSC Representative, about the January CSC report. Meanwhile, Tom Cordaro reported that there were approximately 200-220 attendees at the World Peace Day Interfaith Service, held on 1/1/12, for which SMMP was again a co-sponsor. This interfaith service had received very good press coverage, with Tom planning to send a link out shortly to the *Naperville Sun's* article.

Christian Education (CEC): [*Christian Education Commission - January Report, Submitted by Kim Cernek, 1/2/12*, was electronically sent in advance by Kim Cernek, a copy of which is attached hereto]. Kim Cernek, CEC Representative, was absent from tonight's meeting.

There was some inquiry posed by Council about whether or not SMMP will host its second annual St. Patrick's Day dinner. Last year's dinner, headed by Kevin M. Lynch, was held as a fundraiser for SMMP's High School Youth Ministry's summer urban mission trip-Chicago (through SHINE Catholic Youth Camp). Desmond will contact Candy Rice, Director of High School Youth Ministry, for confirmation about this possible 2012 fundraiser.

All Saints Catholic Academy (ASCA) will hold its major annual fundraiser dinner event on 2/25/12 – last year's was scheduled on the same night as SMMP's St. Patrick's Day Dinner fundraiser. Desmond noted that ASCA now has a new Development Director, whom Steve Schroeder plans to contact about the possibility of hosting joint fundraiser project(s) with SMMP. For instance, one potential idea would be a joint fundraiser for roof repairs – roof work at both locations at the same time could also save money. Lastly, Council noted the excellent full-page "News Notes" about ASCA, which appear in SMMP's weekly parish bulletin – Patty Bajek writes these.

MID-YEAR STAFF/COUNCIL WORKSHOP (1/7/12): Tom Cordaro confirmed that this meeting will be held from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. [and will include a working lunch]. He will send out additional information about this shortly by e-mail, including a worksheet which participants should complete in advance.

FINAL “WHIP AROUND”: Comments included:

- “Very good meeting.”
- “Happy New Year to all!”
- “We finished on time!”
- “Very good meeting, with process in place on some interesting items.”
- “Well-shepherded.”

CLOSING: Steve Schroeder offered a closing prayer.

The meeting concluded at 9:00 p.m.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7th in Room 8 [St. Margaret Mary Parish], starting at 7:00 p.m.

*February Opening and Closing Prayer: Terry Wagner
February Refreshments: Gus Fischer*

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary

**SMMP Fundraising Committee
December Report
Submitted by Steve Schroeder
12/22/11**

New Fundraising Initiative/current status of exiting:

- Donations requests for flowers as well as music for the Christmas program were in bulletin. Look forward to learning the amount collected.
- Bequests – Sample Bequest wording was selected and Tom Cordaro is in process of working up a bulletin article. The article is to continuously appear in the bulletin. Separately, Tony Brandolino, Chief Development Officer, Diocese of Joliet, offered his help to “coach” Father Paul when questions, issues or concerns come up regarding Bequests.
- We have asked Tony for names of Law Firms that the Diocese of Joliet uses/recommends.
- We have asked the Huck Bouma Law Firm to provide an outline of their Estate Planning seminar. We are told that they do not have one planned presently, but do have plans to given another one in 2012. The last one was hold at the Morton Arboretum.

- Assuming an Estate Planning seminar is held, we will recommend to Council to consider issuing some sort of disclaimer stating we are not recommending a particular law firm or lawyer.

Future fundraising under consideration

- Dan Dulik, Brian Churilla and Bob Hansen have agreed to approach a local grocery store(s) or restaurant(s) for fundraisers. We will be discussing this in more detail in January.
- Gus Fisher to work on bulletin article for one-time special collection for Missal change costs.

**Communication Committee Report
January 2012**

Though no new meeting was held by this group in December, the previously-reported efforts of this group and its subcommittees have continued this month.

The agenda for the January 7, 2012 Staff-Council mid-year meeting is being prepared will include a discussion on the overall internal and external communication strategy for our parish.

At the Council's request, Tom Cordaro circulated for the Council's review the communication outline crafted by the Telling Our Story subcommittee to assist the Council in its work in considering an overall communication strategy.

Ed Dooley was thanked in a personal hand-written letter for his work on initiating the logo discussion and preparing 7 sample logos and advised that this issue is now being explored further by a Council subcommittee.

The few questions for discussion this month are:

- 1. Does it make sense to defer Council's further consideration of the overall communication plan for the parish until after the January 7 meeting since Council and Staff will be taking up that issue together on that day?**
- 2. With respect to the goals expressed by I believe Sue Schroeder last month for changes to the parish website [a) the site should draw people to our site; b) the site should energize our parish; and c) the site should inform people as to who we are], what further action should we take on this issue at our upcoming regular January meeting? Some ideas for action could include:**
 - i. Hold off on giving goals to the website team until after the January 7 Staff-Council meeting as some additional relevant ideas could come out of that meeting and the meeting will just take place in a few more days; or**

- ii. **Finalize the goals for the website team at the January 3 meeting and then communicate those goals to the website team so that they can move forward sooner.**

Submitted by Desmond Curran

Communicating Our Story Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes, November 29, 2011

Attendees: Cabrina Attals: cabrina@theattals.com , Kathleen Macko: hrrspwr4me@comcast.net , Phil Samuels: samiamiu@sbcglobal.net and Tom Cordaro: tomcordaro@juno.com

1. After introductions and prayer the committee discussed the following questions:

What is/are the goal(s) we want to accomplish by publishing stories of parishioners and parish groups?

- Stories should illustrate how SMMP is a “parish with heart.”
- Stories should demonstrate how faith (and membership in SMMP) makes a difference in the lives of parishioners and their impact in the wider community.
- Stories should acknowledge some of the amazing people who make up our parish community (who are unknown by many but quietly give witness to their faith.)
- Stories should provide parishioners with concrete ways to talk about our parish (who we are) with those outside the SMMP community.
- Stories should give witness to faith journey of parishioners: the ways people grow and are moved.
- Stories should highlight participation in parish programs.

What elements do we want to be sure to include in any story we tell?

- Stories should be gathered under a common logo and moniker. Our working moniker is: **Parish Heartbeats: Stories of Faith in Action**
- Stories should be personal and include direct quotes from those being written about.
- Each story should answer the following questions:
 - How did they get started? How were they called?
 - What does their work involve? What do they do?
 - How has their involvement changed their life? How has it impacted their faith?
- Each story should include some kind of action suggestion (i.e. join a group, volunteer, take a first step).
- Photos should be included with each story when possible.

What mediums do we want to employ in order to get our stories out to fellow parishioners and to the wider community?

- Sunday Bulletins
- Website
- Constant Contact
- New Parishioner Welcome Packets
- Bulletin Board.
- Diocesan Magazine

As the committee becomes more active and gets more experienced, we would like to expand to media outlets in the community like the Naperville Sun, Daily Herald, Trib Local, etc.

2. After reviewing some of the story ideas already available the committee members volunteered to work on the following stories:

- Cabrina: Bereavement Ministry Story
- Phil: Men's Club April Service Project
- Kathleen: Military Ministry
- Tom: Jim Vale's Mission Trip to Arizona

First drafts of the stories should be sent by email to all members of the committee by Friday, January 6th

WORD COUNT: 600-700 (based on Arizona story in bulletin)

3. Next meeting date: Tuesday, January 10th, 7:00 pm

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Saint Margaret Mary Parish

'Hospitality Sunday'

Mission:

To be a self-sustaining source of Congregation growth and an inclusive Community.

Vision:

A vibrant robust addition to the church that is looked forward to on those days when it is held.

Objectives:

1. A growing % of participants within the current number of active members of the church
2. Grow number of active church participants
3. A program that generates revenue that eventually pays for itself or more.
4. Attracts more youth to the church
5. A program that the congregation looks forward to with anticipation.

Strategies

1. Build a strong awareness of the program
 - a. Put information in bulletin
 - b. Flyers on doors in church
 - c. Announced at masses
2. Offer food that is the equivalent of commercial outlets – donuts, bagels, etc. found at places such as Dunkin Donuts or Einstein's Bagels
 - a. Talk to vendors and devise quality/price matrix
 - b. Have focus group and make their thoughts known
 - c. Negotiate with chosen vendors on cost
 - d. Delivery options
 - i. pick-up
 - ii. delivered by vendor
3. Have coffee that is favorably accepted
 - a. Decide on brand of coffee
 - b. Plan on how to make coffee
 - c. Plan how to serve coffee
 - d. Any equipment needed to make and preserve brewed coffee
4. Have attractions available for the youth such as movies and cartoons
 - a. Adolescent rated and church approved movies played (20 minute limit)
 - b. Where shown – teen room?
 - c. Room of cartoons being played for younger children
 - d. Monitors needed?
5. Have an atmosphere that is conducive to camaraderie among the participants
 - a. Set-up of room – position of food tables
 - b. Lighting
 - c. Table setting design – electric candles, etc.
 - d. Table clothes – plastic/paper, cost
 - e. Set-up and clean-up people needed
6. Free-Will Giving
 - a. Collection container
 - b. Security
 - c. Accounting process
7. Manager needed
 - a. Qualifications
 - b. Duties
 - c. Authority given
 - d. Who has over-site of program

**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 (Divia)
 - b. Determine how we want to handle deserts. (Divia or get help)
 - 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 (Larry)
 - d. Plan/purchase other beverages – i.e.: soda, non alcoholic margaritas, Sangria (Larry)
 - e. Recruit servers and develop/manage schedule (Larry)
 - f. Purchase cups, plates etc... (Larry)

2. Communications (**Tom**)
 - a. Develop save the date and put in bulletin **Completed**
 - b. Create invite and put in bulletin 5-6 weeks out - **Completed**
 - c. Coordinate room set-up with Mike P. based on numbers

3. Entertainment (**Dan and Divia**)
 - a. Choir - (Dan)
 - i. **Update 12/14 – Brian P. confirmed they will provide entertainment**
 - ii. Need to confirm with Brian what their needs are.
 - b. Other related entertainment (Divia)
 - i. **Divia** looking into cost of dancers. Will need to see if we can afford.

4. Decorations and Logistics (**Barbara, Sue, Kim**)
 - a. Coordinate with Mary Lou Krause (Barbara)
 - b. Table Cloths (?)
 - c. Other themed decorations and favors (Barbara)
 - d. Name Tags (Sue)
 - e. Coat Check Plan and recruitment (?)
 - f. Babysitting (Kim)

5. Set-up and Cleanup Coordinator (**Dan**)
 - a. Recruit volunteers for set-up and cleanup – **will get volunteers and next parish council meeting.**

Submitted by Dan Dulik

Description of Budget Process for Fiscal Year 2012/13
January 2012

December

- Mike updates long-term financial model for Finance Committee (FC)

January

- FC reviews budget process with Pastoral Council (PC)
- FC reviews long-term financial model with revised assumptions
- FC emails long-term financial model to PC for discussion in Feb's PC meeting
- Commissions begin discussing financial needs and priorities for coming fiscal year in anticipation of submitting a budget request by March 31.
- Diocese provides remaining information pertinent to budgeting, such as health and liability insurance, diocesan assessment, and salary guidelines.

February

- PC completes review of pastoral focus and its impact on the parish's financial picture (e.g., costs to implement new programs or cessation of old programs) and shares this with the FC. Financial spending goals by commission are to be set by the PC and shared with the FC.
- FC chair issues a memo to persons/groups responsible for budgets describing budgeting parameters and requesting budgets by March 31. Spending goals, either in \$ or in % change, are shared in this memo. The FC offers assistance and assigns a liaison to commissions.

March

- FC updates budget analysis, pending formal submission by commissions. At March Council meeting, FC decides by consensus on how to address any additional shortfalls noted, including possible amending of spending goals previously given.
- Budgets from various areas are completed and submitted to FC by March 31.

April

- FC reviews "fit" of entire budget, and adjusts projections. The budget is submitted in final draft form to the PC.

May

- PC reviews and possibly approves budget. If significant issues arise, these can be addressed during the month, with the expectation of final approval by late May and submission to Diocese by June 1.

- Submitted by Terry Wagner

Christian Worship Commission Report December, 2011

Altar Servers: No Report

Baptism Assistants: 5 children were baptized on Dec. 11th.

Music Ministry: All the Liturgies for Christmas went very well. Taize was a great opener to Advent, and Christmas Unplugged was a wonderful ending.

Eucharistic Ministers: No Report

Art & Environment: The Church was decorated for Christmas on December 18th, Thanks for everyone who helped with the decorations. We will be taking down the decorations on Jan. 8th.

Lectors: No Report

Sacristan Ministers: We used substantial bread for the 10:45 Mass on Christmas. We estimated 550 pieces, and could have used another 100 pieces

Greeters: We believe that moving some of the greeters to the entrance doors allowed us to do a better job of greeting. We will continue this practice.

Linen Launderers: No Report

Submitted by Gus Fischer

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Christian Service Commission Report: January, 2012

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE COMMITTEE: This year's program was a big success. We had slightly more parish households participate this year and the generosity of our parishioners continues to be amazing. The parishioners at St. Nicholas and Sacred Heart in Aurora are very grateful for the continuing support of our

parishioners and the committee is planning to do a report in the bulletin sometime in January with photos of those we have helped.

DAYBREAK TRANSITIONAL HOUSING: Last Wednesday we held our monthly meeting, and the mentors dropped off our guests XMAS presents. The Contemporary Choir once again they outdid themselves. They are assisting our guest in taking 2 classes at COD and gave Xmas. presents and food. They are so happy to be giving to such a worthwhile cause, and we are so grateful for their generosity. We had our prayers answered-for our guest to obtain a new job. This Monday she started it. She was so worried as she is getting near graduation and didn't know how she was going to manage with no job. Hard working, conscientious, and trying to better her life, we are so thankful for such a deserving guest. She has worked this program as it should be worked, and she is thankful for all our help and advice. We pray for her every day .

MEN'S CLUB: The men's club met December 20th in the parish center. Seventy-five men attended the meeting. Charitable committee recommended and membership approved \$500 donation to religious retirement split between Sr. Madelyn and Sr. Elizabeth's orders. \$1,350 was approved for kneeler pad replacement, in January; with final phase to be completed by Easter; so that all kneeler pads in the church will have been replaced. Volunteers had been requested and thanked for their efforts for both the church decorating and live nativity hay bale duty. After the business meeting state representative Mike Connolly gave very interesting insight into how the Illinois legislature operates. All men of the parish are encouraged to attend.

PEACE & JUSTICE ADVISORY WORKING GROUP / EARTH CARE COMMITTEE: Work on the 7th annual World Peace Day Interfaith Prayer Service continued through the month of December. The service will take place on Sunday, January 1st at 2:00 pm at North Central College. The Earth Care Committee will be receiving an Earth Flag award for its environmental recycling efforts on Sunday, January 8th at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. In addition a table will be set up in the church lobby with information about the award and the work of this committee. The Earth Care Committee is also planning another electronic recycling day for Saturday, January 28th.

PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE: SMMP will participate in the Interdenominational Prayer Service for Life sponsored by Naperville Christians for Life. Fr. Paul will represent SMMP at the service, which will be held Monday, January, 23 at Calvary Church on Rt. 59. All are invited to attend the Service. Umberto the Unborn will be in the bulletin beginning January 1. Umberto the Unborn is a cartoon which conveys a pro-life message in an uplifting, positive way.

SHARING PARISH: Thanksgiving turkeys and food certificates were distributed to Sacred Heart and St. Nicholas Parishes and also at SMMP on November 20. Sales of tamales were begun as a fundraiser to help with hospital bills for a Sacred Heart family member, and interest has been good. Eighteen dozen tamales were delivered on December 6, and twenty-six dozen on December 20. Four types of tamales are available for \$6 for six, or \$11 (may order two different types) for a dozen.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: This month, in addition to food and gas vouchers, we helped 5 families

1. rent for couple with husband in hospital
2. rent for family worked with Naperville CARES on this case
3. parishioner who needed help with rent

4. rent for a family again split with Naperville CARES
5. utilities for parishioner with 4 children where husband out of work

Submitted by Tom Cordaro

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Late Report Submitted (1/4/11) for Christian Service Commission Summary

September Club – December 2011 Report – Submitted by Ramon (Ray) J. Mayer

On December 7, 2011, the September Club gathered for an afternoon of holiday cheer. In attendance were 49 members, including 3 Clergy. Members were asked to bring an appetizer or dessert and responded with a bountiful array of goodies. Musical entertainment was provided and all participated in a Christmas sing-a-long. Attendees were also requested to bring an inexpensive holiday-wrapped gift for a Christmas grab bag. Finally, a collection was held for the Parish Giving Tree, which resulted in those in attendance contributing a total of \$200 which was converted into eight \$25 Jewel-Osco gift cards which were presented to the parish. As is the monthly custom, December birthdays and anniversaries were recognized, and prayers were requested for members reported to be ill. There will be no meeting in January, 2012.

**Christian Education Commission
January Report
Submitted by Kim Cernek
1/02/12**

Religious Education, PreK–Grade 5

- Early elementary---aged children dressed as shepherds, angels, and Wisemen to present the gifts and lector at the 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass.
- Children in upper elementary and junior high grades sang under the direction of John Schlaman at the 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass.

Junior High, Journey

- 200 teens wrapped toys and collected \$1300 in gift cards for *Operation WRAP* on Monday, December 12.
- A reception for Journey leaders was held on Thursday, December 29.

Senior High, Quest

- Confirmation interviews continue.
- Teens served dinner at the December Threads: *Christmas Alive*.
- Deadline for registration for the *SHINE* Mission Trip extended to January 16.

Adult Faith Formation

- Over 500 copies of *Rediscovering Catholicism* by Matthew Kelly were distributed on December 17–18 to prepare for a series of discussions that will begin on January 22.

- New members invited to join Bible Study when it resumes on January 10.
- 40 parishioners attended the Advent Morning of Reflection: *Models of Courage and Faith*, featuring presentations by Pat Frank, Margie Reiley, Dee Weidman, and Sr. Madelyn.
- 225 people attended the December Threads: *Christmas Alive*, with “no room at the inn” for last---minute requests for seating.

All Saints Catholic Academy

- A carload of necessities and canned goods donated by ASCA families and a check from the Athletic Association were delivered to Hesus House as a part of a school---wide service project for Advent.
- ASCA will host an Open House during Catholic Schools Week (the last week of January).
- The Dinner Dance Auction, ASCA’s major fundraiser, will be held on Saturday, February 25.

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