

**St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL**  
**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**June 3, 2014**

**Members Participating:** Barbara Burkhardt, Kim Cernek, Tom Cordaro, Gus Fischer, Neil Gorman, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Divia Ludwig, Mike Newell, Marian Stricker, Larry Williams, Barb Zdon

**Members Absent:** None

**Incoming Council Members Present:** Cabrina Attal, Victoria Kosirog, Tom Zakosek

**Incoming Council Members Absent:** Janene Parisi, Phil Samuels

Council President Barbara Burkhardt opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. in the Upper Room at SMMP. Mike Newell offered an opening prayer. Barbara then welcomed **Victoria Kosirog** (newly discerned At-Large Council Member), along with incoming Commission Representatives **Cabrina Attal** (Christian Service) and **Tom Zakosek** (Christian Worship) to tonight's meeting. In accordance with the Council's constitution, these new members could speak but not yet vote at tonight's meeting prior to their installation. They will begin serving three-year terms on Council.

New At-Large Members Victoria Kosirog and **Phil Samuels** will replace outgoing At-Large Members Barbara Burkhardt and Larry Williams. Cabrina Attal will replace Divia Ludwig as CSC Representative; Tom Zakosek will replace Gus Fischer as CWC Representative; and **Janene Parisi** will replace Kim Cernek as CEC Representative. The Administration Commission Representative position still remains unfilled.

**APPROVAL OF MAY 2014 MEETING MINUTES**

**Council approved the meeting minutes from May 6, 2014, with Gus Fischer moving, Larry Williams seconding, and the Council approving these.** The minutes, along with Commission reports, will now be posted onto the Council's online web page.

**DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING (6/23/14):** Marian Stricker will attend the Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting as SMMP's representative, with Barb Zdon serving as an alternate if needed. This meeting will be held at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Aurora, on 6/23/14 at 7:00 p.m., focusing on pastoral plans for the diocese.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** Council engaged in a lengthy discussion with Fr. Paul about the recent recruitment drive held by the Knights of Columbus to tentatively form a chapter at SMMP. Bishop Conlon had also made his mind recently known that he would like the Knights to establish commissions in every parish within the diocese. SMMP is the only parish in Naperville without a Knights of Columbus chapter. Formation of a new chapter would require a membership commitment from a minimum of twenty men from SMMP. Although Fr. Paul does not yet know the exact number of parishioners who were recruited before and after Masses on 6/1/14, he was informed that the recent drive had gone "very well."

Although Fr. Paul had briefly discussed much of the above at a recent Council meeting [although this was not noted in the minutes], there was concern raised tonight that the tentative formation of a K. of C. chapter had not followed the established formation processes outlined by the charter and by-laws of SMMP's Council and Christian Service Commission.

Neil Gorman, new President (effective 6/17/14) of SMMP's Men's Club, shared a prepared statement on behalf of the Men's Club. ***[Men's Club Statement RE: New Knights of Columbus Chapter, as presented and submitted by Neil Gorman, is shown hereto].*** It states that the **Men's Club will not allow the formation of a Knights of Columbus chapter to become a divisive issue in our parish; but that they will not be merging these two groups.** The Men's Club will continue its mission in the parish, without duplicating any of its efforts with the K. of C. The Men's Club will also issue a letter of welcome to the Knights of Columbus and will also clearly define the Men's Club mission to the parishioners.

Following formation of a Knights of Columbus chapter at SMMP, Council noted that it needs to maintain ongoing dialogue with the Knights of Columbus, including their presence at liturgies, along with any fundraising. In addition, Council needs to determine in which Commission the K. of C. would need to become an integral part.

Fr. Paul also indicated that, if the Knights are successful in starting a chapter at SMMP, they will not be having fund raising functions that are presently done by the Men's Club, such as the Parish Picnic. The Knights have told him that the only function they have discussed is the sale of candy to help the intellectually disabled, as part of their national charter.

Barbara Burkhardt will respond to John Schlaman's written concerns to Council.

**CONCEALED CARRY PROHIBITION: [5/19/14 Diocese of Joliet Memorandum to All Pastors of the Diocese of Joliet on Concealed Carry Prohibition is shown hereto].**

Continuing discussion from last month about prohibiting concealed carry weapons on church property, Tom Cordaro shared his research on this issue, including the memorandum recently issued by the Diocese about this. The Bishop strongly requests that pastors prohibit concealed guns from all properties owned under the Diocese of Joliet Trust; and that local law enforcement officials should be contacted for advice on how to post concealed carry prohibitions.

SMMP will follow the City of Naperville's guidelines for posting signs prohibiting concealed carry weapons. These signs will be in place at SMMP before the Religious Education Program begins its 2014-15 school year. Neil Gorman and Barbara Burkhardt will work with Tom Cordaro in drafting several paragraphs to the Commissions about this, using this as a "teachable moment" opportunity.

**PARISH SURVEY UPDATE:** Tom Cordaro reported receipt of 359 survey responses, with 339 of these received by e-mail and 20 received in hardcopy format – the number of survey responses is considered “excellent.” The upcoming deadline for survey submission is 6/09/14. The Survey Committee plans to assemble and analyze the data before September for the Parish Leadership, followed by the committee's providing a brief report about the survey results to the parish – parish demographic information will be included in this report.

**PARISH TOWN HALL MEETING REVIEW (5/25/14):** Council expressed its disappointment that only 3-4 parishioners had attended the recent Town Hall Meeting, held immediately after the 12:15 p.m. Mass on 5/25/14. It was noted that this year's advance publicity was not very strong and that several other factors (an afternoon Chicago Blackhawks play-off game, Hospitality Sunday, and Baptisms) were in competition with this year's Town Hall. Barbara Burkhardt suggested that Council reconsider next year's Town Hall scheduling (immediately following the 12:15 p.m. Sunday Mass vs. 7:00 p.m.) and that its scheduling on Pentecost Sunday (similar to last year) might again be very effective..

Council expressed frustration and disappointment that there was no representative from Administration Commission in attendance at the Town Hall Meeting, although representation had been promised in advance. The representative was scheduled to make a short presentation at this. It was also noted that some parishioners might specifically attend the Town Hall to question or learn more about parish finances, along with repair and replacement projects. The missing Administration Commission representative caused a critical meeting gap, with Council's not yet receiving an explanation about this absence.

### **COMMISSION REPORTS:**

#### **Administration: [No report received. No representative in attendance].**

Council expressed great concern about the lack of Administration's representation on Council in 2013-14, noting that Administration is an integral part of the parish and is “not just about the budget.” Council also noted that the Administration Representative does not need to be a "technical or finance" person but, rather, someone who could serve as an ongoing liaison between Council and the Administration Commission, attending both groups' meetings and reporting to both. One idea was to ask Mike Prus, Parish Business Manager, to be the Administration Representative. Council also suggested that, if Administration could not find a representative, then perhaps a parish bulletin request could be used for this. Meanwhile, Marian Stricker volunteered to serve as the liaison person for Administration and Council.

Fr. Paul reported that the CWC's Liturgy Planning Committee has plans to construct a clear glass window, which will separate the side chapel from the church's main worship area. The side chapel will have its own sound system, through which the sound from the church can be turned on or off. The current open passage area, frequently trafficked by parishioners directly in front of the Tabernacle, will then be moved. This enclosure work can be done for \$5,000, using a special gift received by Liturgy Planning.

According to information informally received by Neil Gorman, Tom Hill (Administration Commission) has received an initial parking lot repair quote of \$44,000 from Joe Jacksa, which is valid for thirty days. The condition of the church parking lot is reportedly not as bad as originally thought. The parking lot has four separate sections which require different types of repair, including the following: the west section needs extensive crack sealing, seal coating, and re-striping; both the upper and lower portions of the east section need crack sealing and seal coating; and the lower entrance needs approximately thirty yards of patching. The circle area by the church's Main Entrance presents major issues, with the underlying area and surface needing to be re-done. This circle area was poorly and hastily done originally, as part of the church's new addition project (with the contractor's bankruptcy issues being a possible contributing factor). It is recommended that this circle area be replaced with a foundation and surface.

Fr. Paul stated that the church's HVAC system will be replaced with new units that use a new coolant system. He confirmed that the Parish Center's HVAC system will not be replaced at the same time. Currently, the church's HVAC system replacement will be done either in October 2014 or in April 2015.

**Christian Worship (CWC): [CWC Monthly Report - June, 2014 was electronically submitted in advance by Gus Fischer, a copy of which is shown hereto].**

Council extended its thanks to Gus Fischer for his past three years on Council as Christian Worship Commission Representative. He was presented with a gift remembrance for his years of service on Council.

There was some additional discussion about Sunday Mass Gift Bearer sign-up, with encouragement for individuals and not just families to sign up for this -- additional people could then be added later to form a group. The Pastoral Council and the Men's Club might also consider signing up as group Gift Bearers.

Kim Cernek, John Schlaman, and Deacon Ken Miles continue to rotate making pre-Mass announcements at the Sunday Vigil and Sunday Masses.

**Christian Education (CEC): [CEC May Report for June 2014 PC Meeting was electronically submitted in advance by Kim Cernek, a copy of which is shown hereto].**

Council extended its thanks to Kim Cernek for her past three years on Council as Christian Education Commission Representative. She was presented with flowers as a gift remembrance for her years of service on Council.

Council expressed appreciation for the detailed dates and excellent planning for so many upcoming Adult Faith Formation programs, as already listed for 2014-15 in this month's CEC report. Barbara Burkhardt commented on the excellence of Anita Grushank's dramatization, having previously seen one of her performances. [Anita Grushank is scheduled to dramatize *Three Women in the Bible* as an evening parish event at SMMP on 10/04/14].

**Christian Service (CSC):** [CSC Report: June, 2014 was electronically submitted in advance by Tom Cordaro, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Council extended its thanks to Divia Ludwig for her past three years on Council as Christian Service Commission Representative. She was presented with flowers as a gift remembrance for her years of service on Council.

There was some additional discussion about the difficulty in estimating correct food quantities for funeral lunches. When there is leftover funeral lunch food, some of this is frequently donated to PADS.

Barb Zdon expressed appreciation for the Pro-Life Mother's Day cards and looks forward to purchasing Pro-Life Father's Day cards.

### **AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Communication Committee:** Larry Williams reported that the committee's most recent meeting was in March but that it has not "moved forward" since then. When the committee had met with Mike Prus, Tom Prus (Mike's son), and Jim Krema in March, it learned that the parish web site is structurally in good shape but that there is a continued need for submission of new content for the web site. As Mike Prus frequently needs to obtain updated information for the web site from the parish bulletin, each of the parish Commissions should be encouraged to frequently submit updated information to him directly.

Tom Prus continues to work on the parish web site for approximately 50 hours per month on a *pro bono* basis, Council recommended that SMMP pay him a monthly stipend for this work, with the recommendation that this be discussed with the Finance Committee and implemented shortly.

Council also noted the need for some professional-quality photographs of liturgies and parish events for the parish web site. Several names of parishioner photographers were shared at tonight's meeting. Kim Cernek has also recently taken many quality photographs of parish events and expressed willingness to contribute some of these for the parish web site. It was also recommended that Larry Williams talk with Dan Lawler about web site ideas, especially noting the vibrancy and relevancy of SMMP's new parish youth ministry web site, [www.youthwithheart.com](http://www.youthwithheart.com) , which Dan has developed.

**Nominations Committee:** Mike Newell and Neil Gorman were thanked for their work in heading up the Nominations Committee for the two new At-Large Council positions, which Victoria Kosirog and Phil Samuels are filling. Mike and Neil noted the excellence of the six candidates (Rebekah Asensio, Victoria Kosirog, Phil Samuels, Chuck Schlabach, Paula Stone, and Carl VanDrill) who had recently discerned for these two positions, along with the quality of the discernment process (as facilitated by Sr. Madelyn). There was an increased number of parishioners who had submitted endorsements for these candidates this year, possibly in response to an effective new candidate information layout used in the parish bulletin. Victoria Kosirog noted that this year's final discernment meeting was intense and lengthy but very Spirit-filled.

**ELECTION OF 2014-15 COUNCIL OFFICERS:** Barbara Burkhardt led the nomination process for the offices of Council President, Vice-President, and Secretary for 2014-15. These terms would be for one-year commitments. Candidates for these need to be any of the six At-Large Council Members, with the office of Secretary usually filled by one of the new At-Large Members. In addition, the new At-Large Members and new Commissions Representatives could not yet vote for nor nominate candidates at tonight's meeting.

**Council expressed its consensus in approving Barb Zdon as 2014-15 Council President, Marian Stricker as Vice-President, and Phil Samuels as Secretary [pending his acceptance *in absentia*].**

Barbara Burkhardt was specially thanked for her excellent leadership as outgoing Council President and Larry Williams as Vice-President, along with their years of service on Council. They were presented with gift remembrances from the Council. Recording Secretary was also presented with a gift remembrance and card. The incoming new Council Members were installed on Council.

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES:**

- 9/02/14 (7:00 p.m.) -- Council meeting
- 9/12/14 - Parish Leadership Kick-Off Dinner
- 9/13/14 - Parish Leadership Fall Gathering Workshop

**FINAL "WHIP" AROUND:** Barbara Burkhardt requested that each Council Member reflectively shares comment(s) based on the entire 2013-14 Council year. Excerpted comments included:

- "Finally, there's been some meeting controversy -- how wonderfully Council is also dealing with this."
- "There are probably some nuns in heaven who can't believe that I'm now here on Council."
- "What a very good group this has been, and what a privilege it's been to have served on Council. What a great gift the old and new Council Members are."
- "Although I've been called to many ministries over the years, I very anxiously await seeing what's ahead during these next three years."
- "This has been a very good year -- wish I could be back on the new Council!"
- "I'm very excited about the new mission -- there is so much that's ALIVE within our parish."
- "Thanks for letting me practice my English at the meetings -- it's been challenging, but I've been very happy."
- "I didn't quite know what to expect during my first year on Council -- it has worked well and has a very different feel to me now, about which I am very excited."
- "Special thanks to Barbara Burkhardt for her outstanding leadership and communication skills and well-organized topics. Special thanks to Tom [Cordaro] for his organizational and oratorical skills. And thanks to the three Commission

Reps for all that they have contributed -- so mind-boggling! What a constructive and Spirit-filled experience this has been."

- "Council has been an extraordinarily enriching experience -- Council friends have become family. Special thanks, too, to Tom for helping direct us in developing the missional directives."
- "Education has come a long way, with growing pains and a lot of necessary changes. Thanks to Council for your wisdom and prudence during this process."
- "I'm excited about the possibilities and look forward to the new year ahead."
- "Thanks for a wonderful year."
- "What a wonderful three years of service this has been. I've enjoyed getting into the 'meat' of the parish -- Council has taught me so much."
- "As Pastor, I've become very comfortable with the Pastoral Council's leadership. I'm confident that things will work out, about which I'm very happy."

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Mike Newell offered a closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 8:42 p.m.

Barbara Burkhardt invited the Council to her house afterwards for refreshments and a final gathering.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury  
Recording Secretary

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**Men's Club Statement RE: New Knights of Columbus Chapter**

As all of you have seen this past week the Knights of Columbus have been trying to organize a chapter in our parish,

Many of you may not know that I will be the Men's club president effective the June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Prior to Father Paul becoming our pastor, this parish was ripped apart by a decision to move forward with a new school. Even today there are very strong opinions on either side regarding this decision and the decision making process. It is still a divisive issue.

**As President of the Men's club I want to assure you that we will not allow this to become a divisive issue in our parish, you have my word.**

However, this is an issue that should have been brought up to the Pastoral Council via the Christian Service Commission as established by our charter and by laws. While Keith Brown, Gus Fisher and I were

informed by our pastor that the Knights would be started it was presented to us as decision of the Bishop. This is still an issue that should have been brought to our attention via established processes.

You have my word that we (Men's Club) will support St. Margaret Mary Parish in any way that is requested, but we will not be merging these two groups.

Again you have my promise that we will continue our mission in the parish, we will not allow the formation of a Knights Chapter to ever be a divisive issue in our group or parish.

Thank You

Neil Gorman

President St. Margaret Mary Men's Club

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## **Diocese of Joliet**

**Office of the Bishop** [www.dioceseofjoliet.org](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org)

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### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: All Pastors of the Diocese of Joliet

FROM: Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon, Bishop of Joliet

DATE: May 19, 2014

RE: CONCEALED CARRY PROHIBITION

As you are likely aware, the State of Illinois has an enacted a law permitting people to carry concealed gun, except into certain specified locations and private property where expressly prohibited by the owner.

The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Joliet has already provided guidance as to how our school buildings are to be posted with the required decals.

The question of other diocesan property has been discussed by the Presbyteral Council. Although the council advised against a universal policy prohibiting concealed guns, the members did advise me to issue a memorandum outlining some principles that should guide pastors in dealing with the issue.

1. The Church recognizes the natural right every person has to defend his life and those for whom he is responsible, and in the United States the Church acknowledges the freedom accorded to citizens by the Second Amendment of the Constitution “to bear arms”. Nevertheless, we also profess to be disciples of the Prince of Peace whose one commandment for his followers is “to love one another as I have loved you.” Firearms in our churches, halls, offices, cemeteries or other facilities seem contrary to the spirit of the Gospel.
2. It is my strong request that concealed guns be prohibited from all properties owned under the Diocese of Joliet Trust (which includes virtually all of our parish properties). One exception might be residential rental property. The final decision on the matter rests with the pastor, after he consults with the parish pastoral council. Where a school is directly attached to another facility (e.g., church, gym, hall), however, that facility must be a prohibited facility.
3. Local law enforcement officials should be contacted for advice on how to post a prohibited facility.
4. No parish or other diocesan institution is required or expected to take any particular action to enforce a voluntary prohibition. If concerns about enforcement arise, local police should be contacted. Be advised that certain persons are exempt by law from prohibitions imposed by private property owners, and leaving a gun securely in one’s vehicle is not considered a violation of a prohibition.

More information on the concealed carry law can be found at the Illinois State Police website. Questions concerning this memorandum may be directed to Mr. Alex Rechenmacher (arechenmacher@dioceseofjoliet.org) in my office.

**Office of the Bishop**

815.221.6100 | 815.722.6632 (f) | officeofthebishop@dioceseofjoliet.org

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**CWC Monthly Report June, 2014**

**Baptism Assistants:**

We are in need of two additional Baptism Greeters. This involves attending Baptisms at the 12:15 Mass, and assisting the deacons with the Baptisms.

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

No report this month

Gift Bearers:

On line sign up has been steady, but slower than we hoped. We are attempting to find ways to get more parishioners involved. We will continue to advertise, and hope that each member of the Parish Council signs their family up.

Greeters:

We are in need of additional Greeters for all Masses.

Medical Ministry:

The new First Aid kit has arrived, and Mike Prus is arranging to have it attached.

Music Ministry:

Nothing to report at this time.

Art & Environment:

A special thanks for all who helped decorate the Church for Easter. We also want to thank everyone who donated money for Flowers. It is always a busy season. We are now working on Pentecost.

Submitted by Gus Fischer

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**CEC May Report for June 2014 Meeting**

**PreK-Grade 5 Report: Sue Davey**

Classes are over. First Communion were a success and VBS starts in two weeks. Registration is low so far, but I expect the numbers to pick up as we get closer.

## **Youth Ministry: Dan Lawler**

We had our last Peer Ministry meeting for the year at the beginning of May, including a send-off for our graduating seniors and an open meeting for teens interested in joining Peer Ministry next year.

We are reviewing this last year's high school program and are discussing making some changes with curriculum and implementation. We will be using Ascension Press' *Chosen* Confirmation Series, which will also be used by St. Elizabeth Seton Parish's and St. Raphael Parish's programs as well. More information about this will be coming soon.

We are still making plans for this summer's service opportunities and information will be sent out soon.

## **Adult Faith Formation: Sr. Madelyn Gould**

BOOK STUDY: The book study group will discuss Caleb's Crossing by Brooks this month .

BIBLE STUDY: Small Group Leaders will meet on May 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss creative ways of publicizing the Bible Study Program. A generous donation to the Bible Study Program will make it possible to keep the fee at \$40.00 per participant.

BUSINESS BREAKFASTS: We have the topics and most of the speakers set for 2014-15. To date, the sessions are as follows (with titles still to be created):

- 9/27/14 -- Everyone Needs a Front Porch – John Blumberg
- 10/16/14 – Living Simply to Simply Live (Panel) – Jaworskis; Barb Zdon; Nolans
- 11/15/14 – Ethics and Trust – Frank Bucaro
- 1/17/15 – Wherever You Are, Be There – Al Gustafson
- 2/21/15 – God at Work: Be Careful for What You Search – Greg Pierce
- 3/21/15 – The Power of Encouragement – TBA

EVENING ENRICHMENT: The planning meeting to determine speakers is scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup>. On Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, Anita Grushank will dramatize Three Women in the Bible. This will be a parish event and will take place in church at 7:00 p.m. Mark your calendars!

MORNING ENRICHMENT: The topics and speakers are as follows:

- 9/09/14 – Making Room for Joy – Terry Nelson Johnson
- 10/08/14 – *Lectio Divina*: Enhancing Evening Personal Prayer – Fr. Joel Rippinger, OSB
- 12/10/14 – At Home in the Nativity – TBA
- 1/14/15 – Simplicity and Balance – TBA
- 2/11/15 – End of Life Issues – Fr. Paul Hottinger
- 3/11/15 – The Importance of Silence in a Noisy World – Panel
- 4/22/15 – Saints: Role Models for Today

RETREATS: The Women's CRHP Team will discuss their ministries on June 1<sup>st</sup>, and the Men's CRHP will have a Team Meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The Ignatian Retreat continues to meet on Monday evenings with 14 retreatants.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: Twenty directees

TABLE FOR TWO: Rev. Ken Potts will be our presenter on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Topic: The Need for Intimacy.

R.C.I.A.: Three men have been meeting weekly with Ken Miles for the Inquiry sessions.

LIBRARY: Victoria Kosirog continues to keep our library in good working condition.  
*Gratias!*

OTHER: I will be facilitating the Parish Council discernment on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**All Saints Catholic Academy: Dr. Sandy Renehan**

64 eighth graders graduated from All Saints last Friday night. Of these graduates, 37 were with us from kindergarten. 40 of the 64 carried an "A" average through junior high.

One of our former graduates, Ryan Wolfe, was named valedictorian at Benet Academy.

Thank you, SMMP, for all of your support and prayers. We look forward to a wonderful 2014-15 school year.

-- Submitted by Kim Cernek

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**CSC Report: June, 2014**

**BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY:** We have another new member: we welcomed Gail Purpura to the Bereavement Ministry; we set the date for our Annual Remembrance Mass as Thursday, December 11, 2014th at 7:00PM and had 7 new client cases.

**BOY SCOUTS:** Troop 507 will be holding their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, June 1st from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm in the Parish Center.

**DAYBREAK TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COMMITTEE:** Our recent guest has graduated from our program and moved to her own apartment in the area. She decided to reside in this area because she appreciated the assistance District 203 showed her and her daughter. With another entering the school system shortly plus a third child too young for school, she placed a high priority on the school's support. She successfully

paid off several debts and has only her student loans and her car loan left outstanding. Our landlord has allowed us to forgo our June rent as he would like to begin renovating the unit-so this is a savings for us. However, due to the fire damage to the unit he is not returning our security deposit I recommended to the case management supervisor of Catholic Charities that they should consider taking out insurance on their leased apartments to defray any unforeseen damage to their units as our guests could a) not afford such insurance and b) might not qualify for the coverage as the lease is in Catholic Charities name. Our committee looks forward to being approved to accept a new guest to our program.

**FUNERAL LUNCHEONS:** Since the 1st of the year have had 4 Funeral Luncheons: February 27th expecting 75-100, only around 50 came at a cost of \$278.87. March 17th expected 70 and about 70 came at a cost of \$200.25. April 26th we expected 60 with only 25 attending at a cost of \$174.81. May 13th expected 150 and only 75 came at a cost of \$358.38. If maximum people attended would be a cost of less than \$3/person. With lesser numbers could cost nearly double. It is really nothing I can do about this. More people usually come to the church but do not stay. I think at least two of the four families gave a donation to the church.

**NURSERY:** May 4<sup>th</sup>, 9am: 3 kids, 3 families and 10:45am: 3 kids, 3 families. May 11<sup>th</sup> closed for Mother's Day. May 18<sup>th</sup>, 9am: 4 kids, 3 families and 10:45am: 4 kids, 3 families. May 25<sup>th</sup>, 9am: 2 kids, 1 family and 10:45am: 2 kids, 2 families. Also of note this month is the Toy Wash on Saturday, May 31st.

**PEACE & JUSTICE ADVISORY WORKING GROUP:** On the weekend of May 31/June 1 we will have our annual walk/bike to Church celebration including the blessing of the bikes. Dates and themes for next year's parish social mission weeks have been determined: Oct. 26 – Nov. 1, "Opening Our Hearts & Arms to the Strangers Among Us"; Nov. 23-30, "Called to Live as Citizens of the Kingdom"; March 8-14, "Called to Live as Sabbath People with Open Hearts & Arms"; June 7-14, "We are the Body of Christ and Bread for the World." **EARTH CARE COMMITTEE:** Our committee is making preliminary plans to organize an electronics recycling day next January. We will also continue our Christmas Light Recycling as well. In addition we will be continuing our work of moving the parish away from using Styrofoam products to paper products and reusable mugs.

**PRO-L.I.F.E:** About \$300 was raised by offering Mother's Day cards for the Project Life organization.

We will have Father's Day cards available on June 7-8; also to benefit Project Love.

**SEPTEMBER CLUB:** On May 7, 27 members and guests gathered together at the House of Emperor for a social in anticipation of Mother's Day. Attendees were treated to a multi-course Chinese dinner beginning with egg-drop soup, egg rolls, entrées of beef, sweet and sour chicken and sea food, Chinese tea and a fruit plate. As is the monthly custom, May birthdays and anniversaries were recognized and members were asked to remember those members who are ill as well as members who recently passed, in their prayers. President Charlotte Gucwa announced that a buffet at a local pizza restaurant or potluck in the parish center was being considered for the June gathering, in anticipation of Father's Day.

**SHARING PARISH:** \$10,000 of proceeds from Annual Garage Sale funds have been appropriated for tuition assistance for the 2014-2015 school year at Catholic grammar schools in Aurora to support eight students in six families. Letters of notification have been mailed. Tamale orders will be delivered on Sunday, June 22. The Annual Garage Sale will be held from 8am to 8pm on Friday, August 1 and from 8am to 1pm on Saturday, August 2. Donations will be accepted in the Parish Center starting on Saturday, July 26.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:** Check balance a little low, but ok. We helped 8 people this month; Most were women who were between jobs; usually with children. Two had recently found work and just needed a little help to catch up on rent or utilities.

- Submitted by Tom Cordaro