

**St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL**  
**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**September 2, 2014**

**Members Participating:** Cabrina Attal, Tom Cordaro, Neil Gorman, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Victoria Kosirog, Mike Newell, Janene Parisi, Phil Samuels, Marian Stricker, Tom Zakosek, Barb Zdon

**Members Absent:** None

**Guest Presenters:** Chuck Graber, Chuck Schlabach

New Council President Barb Zdon called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Upper Room at SMMP, also offering an opening prayer.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 2014 MEETING MINUTES**

**Council approved the meeting minutes from June 3, 2014, with Neil Gorman moving, Cabrina Attal seconding, and the Council approving these.** The minutes, along with Commission reports, will now be posted onto the Council's online web page.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Parish Picnic (9/07/14):** Barb Zdon invited Council to attend the Parish Picnic on Sunday, wear their Council name badges, and offer hospitality to attendees. These updated nametags are in an envelope, located inside the Council's wall box in the Parish Center. [The Council's box is located at the far left-hand side on the very top of the mail boxes along the wall].

Neil Gorman, Men's Club President, reported that this year's picnic plans are "going well, like clockwork." He noted that they were still low on silent auction items, though. Parishioners will be thanked for their ongoing support of the picnic. The annual picnic functions as the Men's Club major fundraiser, also helping fund various parish projects throughout the year.

**Prayer Leader/Snack Sign-Up:** Council members signed up to offer opening and closing prayer, along with providing snacks, for the monthly meetings in 2014-15.

**PARISH LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP DAY (9/13/14):** Marian Stricker, Council Vice-President, will run the Parish Leadership Workshop on 9/13/14 at SMMP in Barb Zdon's absence (due to Barb's schedule conflict with a family wedding). Tom Cordaro handed out schedules for this workshop day, with its planned conclusion being no later than 3 p.m. Optional attendance at 8:15 a.m. Mass is encouraged, with a continental breakfast to follow. Lunch will be provided at the Workshop.

Tom encouraged 9/13/14 workshop attendees to bring their laptops, especially for reviewing the 21 pages of recent survey responses and analysis. Please contact Tom in advance if needing to be provided with a hardcopy instead.

The Parish Leadership will review the previous year's discernment and will preview the 2014-15 discernment work ahead for Cycle 1.

**Parish Leadership Kick-Off Dinner (9/12/14):** Marian Stricker has graciously offered to host the Parish Leadership Kick-Off Dinner at her home on 9/12/14, with Staff/Council attendees encouraged to bring along their "significant others," too. While Marian plans to provide the main meat entrée(s), she requested that Council Members sign up tonight to bring other food items according to designated categories. Staff will likewise be encouraged to sign up for bringing food items, too. Marian will send out more details shortly, with RSVP's greatly appreciated.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PRESENTATION -- SMMP COUNCIL 16011:** Although arriving at a later than originally scheduled time for tonight's presentation, Chuck Schlabach and Chuck Graber provided information and handouts about the newly formed St. Margaret Mary Knights of Columbus Council 16011. Their presentation lasted for approximately 30 minutes and was accompanied by a multi-page handout.

Chuck Schlabach, who is now a K of C Honorary Life Member (over 70 years of age, with 25 years of continuous membership) and Membership Director, opened his presentation by stating that the new Knight of Columbus Council "does not want to duplicate or compete with efforts of SMMP's Men's Club." He then reviewed the six areas of service (faith, community, family, youth, fellowship, and culture of life), which are underlying principles of this "Catholic, Family, Fraternal Service Organization." Chuck Schlabach also referred to a list of possible K of C service ideas at SMMP, which Fr. Paul had provided to them.

The Knights of Columbus is open to Catholic men who are 18 years and older, "who are committed to making their community a better place, while supporting their church." With a minimum of twenty members needed to form a new council, Chuck Schlabach reported that the new K of C Council at St. Margaret Mary Parish now has 23 members, with an additional five men "awaiting in the wings" for their First Degree Installation. An additional ten men are "under investigation" for membership. Deacon Ken Miles is the Chaplain and Financial Secretary, and Chuck Graber is the new Grand Knight. The new K of C Council also seeks a date and time for a Mass at SMMP to install its officers. Family members and program directors will also be in attendance at this.

Annual membership dues are \$40 (part of which also goes to the State Council and Supreme Council). Various benefits are available through membership, e.g. insurance, scholarships, and widow benefits. The K of C Council would like to periodically run short articles in the parish bulletin and provide links to their website through the parish website. Meetings are currently being planned at SMMP for the fourth Thursday of each month in the Upper Room – attendance is by recruitment/ invitation. As SMMP's Council 16011 is the newest and last to form among the five Catholic parishes in Naperville, Chuck Graber noted its plans to "piggyback" with these other Naperville K of C Councils during its first year of existence, e.g. helping with St. Raphael's K of C Council for the upcoming Tootsie Roll Sales (to help people with intellectual disabilities).

Lastly, Chuck Graber reviewed the goals for tonight's K of C presentation to Pastoral Council, including:

- Communicating who they are;
- Sharing their thoughts and ideas;
- Seeking recognition from SMMP's Pastoral Council;
- Learning about into which Commission they would best fit [most likely Christian Service (CSC)].

The presenters were then thanked and dismissed from the meeting.

**Follow-Up Discussion about Knights of Columbus:** Council noted that this new K of C Council is "a sign of a growing parish," which could potentially reach other men beyond that which is offered by the Men's Club. The K of C Council will be invited to attend the Christian Service Commission's upcoming September kick-off meeting on a contingent basis. As part of the CSC, the K of C Council will need to file monthly reports with Pastoral Council (to subsequently be shared with the parish) and will be managed in a pastoral way, with Deacon Ken Miles as their Chaplain. Pastoral Council also noted that the K of C should have its own Installation Mass with special liturgy, apart from a regular Sunday Mass. Another suggestion included inviting the K of C to serve as a gift bearer group at an upcoming Sunday Mass.

Pending Pastoral Council's approval of the Knights of Columbus Council becoming part of the Christian Service Commission (CSC), the K of C will also need to maintain ongoing dialogue with Pastoral Council about their presence at liturgies and about any fundraising projects.

**PARISH VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER (1/17/15):** As the newly appointed co-chairs of this annual parish event, Mike Newell and Neil Gorman reported that they are already starting to work on plans for the Appreciation Dinner. They are beginning to look at caterers, menus, and bands for this event, with updates forthcoming.

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:** As the newly appointed co-chairs, Victoria Kosirog and Phil Samuels will head up the Nominations Committee to search and fill the two new At-Large Council positions (opening in June 2015). Former Nominations Committee Co-Chairs Mike Newell and Neil Gorman will pass on books and related materials, along with recommended timetables, to them. The high caliber of the candidates who have recently discerned for these two positions was duly noted.

Following this, Council took a break from 8:05-8:20 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Barb Zdon.

### **COMMISSION REPORTS:**

**Administration:** [No written report received].

Fr. Paul reported that the Administration Commission has been active during this past summer, especially regarding repair and replacement decisions. The parking lot was surface-sprayed, at a cost of \$15,000; and some potholes were filled by staff. Crack sealing was not done, however, as this would have cost an additional \$45,000. Ultimately, the entire parking lot will need to be replaced as a very costly project, with this past summer's work serving as a "band-aid." Fr. Paul noted, however, that possible upcoming extreme winter weather might cause continued deterioration of the parking lot, despite these recent repair efforts.

According to Fr. Paul, repair and replacement of the HVAC systems are a bigger priority issue now. Although replacement of the church's aging HVAC system was earmarked for either this fall or next spring, the air-conditioning systems recently went out in both the Parish Center and COR Center instead. Especially due to the upcoming Parish Picnic's need for an air-conditioned Parish Center this weekend, a crane will be arriving tomorrow to help lift the Parish Center's HVAC replacement motor into place. It is possible that this new motor might "stretch out" the time needed for the church's HVAC replacement. Meanwhile, the new coil for the COR Center's HVAC repair will cost \$11,000.

Although Marian Stricker was not able to attend any of the Administration Commission's meetings this past summer, she has volunteered to attend their meetings during 2014-15 and report back to Council about these.

Neil Gorman requested a copy of the current parish budget, especially the spreadsheet showing line item decisions made by Council with Finance Committee Chair Sue Schroeder in Spring 2014. It was noted that Council had not received a copy of the 2014-15 Parish Budget or spreadsheets in either electronic or hardcopy format. Sue Schroeder will be contacted about this.

Council held some additional discussion about parish census figures and related data, with its being noted that there are approximately 2,700 registered families within SMMP. Fr. Paul commented on the fact that, on average, data on most parishes generally break down in this same way: 1/3 of parish members are considered "active," and 25% of the registered parishioners provide 90% of the annual donations.

**Christian Worship (CWC): [*Christian Worship – Tom Zakosek was electronically submitted in advance by Tom Zakosek, a copy of which is shown hereto*].**

According to new Christian Worship Commission Representative Tom Zakosek, the number of baptisms is increasing at SMMP. Meanwhile, the Quest Program is attempting to increase its teen involvement at Mass, especially with Eucharistic Minister training being offered to more confirmed teens. These teen EM's will be encouraged to serve at the designated once-monthly 12:15 p.m. Sunday Masses to be attended by the Quest students. Tom Zakosek reported that special "teen Mass" liturgies are not yet currently being planned.

Fr. Paul noted the importance of serving God and keeping the Word of Christ, especially by being witnesses of Christ through service.

**Christian Education (CEC): [CEC Summer Report for Sept. 2014 PC Meeting was electronically submitted in advance by Janene Parisi, a copy of which is shown hereto].**

New Christian Education Commission Representative Janene Parisi noted that 2014-15 will be a “transition year” for the parish in three main areas. It will also be important to listen to feedback received from parishioners about these:

1. First Communion – Parents of First Communicants will be required to attend a retreat about sacramental preparation, with their being able to choose one from the three dates offered for this. Lunch will be included at these parent retreats.
2. Quest Program – Teens will no longer meet in small groups at leaders’ homes. Instead, the freshmen Quest students will meet as a large group at SMMP at 11 a.m. on designated Sundays (with attendance taken), followed by their attending the 12:15 p.m. Mass; and sophomore Quest students will attend the designated 12:15 p.m. Sunday Mass, followed by their meeting as a group (with attendance taken). A make-up program will be available for teens to complete with their parents for any missed sessions.
3. Mental Health and Wellness – Beginning with SMMP’s junior high school students and families, an education and awareness program on Depression and Anxiety, entitled “Ending the Silence,” will be presented to them in collaboration with NAMI.

The Mental Health Awareness Committee is still in need of a permanent staff liaison sponsor, following Deacon Don Helgeson’s being unable to fulfill this role due to recent job-related travel requirements. Sr. Madelyn Gould has agreed to be the staff liaison sponsor for this initial year only, while the search for a permanent staff liaison sponsor continues.

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

New Christian Service Commission Representative Cabrina Attal reported that a new eight-week Grief Support Group for adults will be held at SMMP, to be facilitated by Barbara Burkhardt, who is a hospital chaplain at Edward Hospital and Good Samaritan Hospital.

New policies for food storage in the parish refrigerator are being written, at the request of Comfort Care Ministry. These policies will also be reviewed by Administration and Pastoral Council.

### **AD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Concealed Carry Weapon Prohibition: Council was in unanimous agreement to prohibit concealed carry weapons on church property, at the Bishop of Joliet’s**

**request and in adherence to the City of Naperville's guidelines for posting signs about this.** The "no guns" signage will be posted shortly on SMMP buildings. In addition, an Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Neil Gorman, Tom Cordaro, and Barbara Burkhardt, developed the following statement, which Council approved tonight for publication in the parish bulletin and for posting onto the parish website:.

***Called to follow the message of our Lord Jesus Christ, who suffered death without the desire to strike back, our St. Margaret Mary Parish Community, in agreement with our bishop, declares our parish buildings a gun free zone. (cf. Memorandum to All Pastors, May19, 2014. www.xyz.org ).***

***While acknowledging the right to "bear arms," Bishop Conlon stated that "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. I strongly request that concealed guns be prohibited from all properties owned under the Diocese of Joliet.***

***We take this action in faith and trust, knowing that God has called us to overcome all our fears as we extend our open hearts and arms to all, regardless of who they are. We pray for the courage and grace to embrace this call, and we invite all parishioners and guests to honor commitment.***

- Issued by the St. Margaret Mary Parish Council, September 2, 2014

**DIOCESAN DUPAGE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING REPORT:** Marian Stricker, representing SMMP, attended the Diocesan DuPage Pastoral Council, which was held on 6/23/14 at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Aurora. Eighteen parishes are represented in the DuPage Pastoral Council Deanery, with there being eight separate parish deaneries within the Diocese. The DuPage Deanery will meet three times in 2014-15; and Marian has consented to continue representing SMMP at these meetings and report back to SMMP's Pastoral Council about these.

According to Marian, the bulk of this past summer's meeting focused on Bishop Conlon's Pastoral Plan for the Diocese, to be implemented within the parishes during 2014-17. The primary priorities of the Pastoral Plan focus on ***Discipleship, Evangelization,*** and ***Charity.*** Marian noted that the bishop is trying to get this uniform message and focus out to all of the diocesan parishes over the next three-year period.

The Joliet Diocesan Assembly, "Go Out and Make Disciples," will be held on 11/01/14 at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus, Joliet. Each parish pastor, along with three members of the parish lay leadership, is requested to attend this assembly. Fr. Paul noted that he will be unable to attend, due to his trip to the Holy Land; and one of SMMP's deacons will be requested to attend in his stead. Marian has also consented to

attend this assembly. Included at this assembly will be ministry tables and breakout sessions with various parishes, sharing ideas about best practices.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Barb Zdon offered a closing prayer.

Following this, the meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.

***The next meeting will be held in the Upper Room at St. Margaret Mary on Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:00 p.m.***

*October Opening/Closing Prayer: Neil Gorman*

*October Refreshments: Neil Gorman*

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury  
Recording Secretary

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**Worship Commission  
Tom Zakosek**

**Lectors**

Lectors - Quest kids will lector at 12:15 masses on weeks they have class. Looking for new Lectors to sign up, especially teens and young adults.

Gift bearers - number of families signing up on line to be gift bearers has been dropping. Hopefully all Parish Council members can sign up to build momentum for this initiative.

**Eucharistic Ministers**

All EMs were contacted via Constant Contact last week. They were asked to report if they no longer wished to serve as an EM or if their Mass time preference had changed. There was also a similar notice published in the bulletin. A fall EM schedule will be created by our parish secretary, Sue Carroll, in the next few weeks.

Also, Dan Lawler would like to train more confirmed teen EMs in preparation for the monthly Quest Masses that will be occurring this year. I will be coordinating with Dan and Deacon Ken to find a time to conduct training. (we do already have several Peer Ministers who are trained as EMs).

## **Greeters**

The new First Aid Kit has been installed in the Library.  
We have added a few new greeters, but more are needed.  
We will start using some of the teens as greeters at the 12:15 Mass. We are working with Dan on this.

## **Environment & Art**

Getting ready for fall now though. I did make a few purchases with the remainder of our budget.  
A nice picnic table for the outdoor courtyard.  
Several lazer lights for the church ceiling. We will use them at Christmas eve and for Taize.

## **Music Ministry**

We have had a good summer. The Lumen Christi choir (9:00 liturgy) took off for the summer in need of a well deserved respite.

The Contemporary choir continued to sing the 10:45 liturgy throughout the summer. Thank you, choir, for all your hard work and dedication.

The OFF THE RAILS group (a subset of the Contemporary Choir plus a few others) put on a wonderful performance once again in the Parish quadrangle last Saturday eve. A great time was had by all. Heartfelt thanks goes out to all the musicians who put in a lot extra preparation work each and every year this make this such a spectacular event.

We have had some much needed maintenance on the organ this summer. I am very pleased with the overall results. The company that performed the work was first rate.

The Bill Cessna Trio concert on Sunday eve Aug 10th in the Upper Room was fantastic. Thanks to Bill and his group for such an entertaining evening. We hope you will return to SMMP for another concert next year.

Plans are in place for getting started with all our liturgies for the fall. I can't believe that another summer is almost gone.

Our string ensemble played 9:00 earlier this summer. They were wonderful. The ensemble will be playing 9:00 mass this upcoming weekend.... We will have

10-12 instruments present!

We also accepted two new high school cantors during summer: Ben Ryan and Becca Jakubowski. Both are accomplished musicians and are a great addition to our cantor team.

Finally special thanks to Lisa and Kirsten Young for playing duo flutes at many liturgies this past year.

- Submitted by Tom Zakosek

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## **CEC Summer Report for Sept 2014 PC Meeting**

### **PreK–Grade 5 Report: Sue Davey**

Last spring our Rice Bowl collection totaled \$1,213.

Classes start Saturday, September 6th. At this point, there is one class without a catechist. However, we are still receiving registrations and may have to open more classes. The limitation on opening new classes is getting enough catechists to fill the spots.

Liturgy of the Word for Children resumes on September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Jo Ann Jeffreys has agreed to continue as coordinator.

#### Catechists:

- On Saturday, August 23rd, RE and Youth Ministry held a combined Catechist/Leader Day. Jennifer Curtin presented “Living the Gospel: An Inclusive Model of Faith Formation. The program included a prayer service led by Fr. Paul. We broke into grade levels for presentations by Marian Stricker and Cecelia Filas (“Praying in Color”), biblical storytelling with The Jesse Box and the new technology available in the classroom. Approximately 50 catechists attended.
- Two “New” Catechist workshops are scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup> - Sixteen catechists have registered to attend.
- Catechetical Sunday is September 21st. Deacon Ken Miles will prepare a blessing for the catechists at the weekend Masses.
- A Protecting God’s Children workshop was held on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. A second workshop will be offered on Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### Sacraments:

- During the last week of September we will be sending information to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parents regarding Reconciliation. ASCA provided contact information for their children involved in sacramental preparation.

- Our parish staff has been exploring other ways to renew the life of our community throughout this past year. We have created a half day retreat program that delves into the traditions of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Each presentation will challenge parents to understand how the sacrament is woven into their lives. These sessions will take place on Sunday October 19th, January 11th, and February 1st from 12 -4 pm. We will begin with prayer and an introduction, then lunch will be served. We are asking that at least one parent from each family attend one session during the year.

### **Youth Ministry: Dan Lawler**

#### Mission Trips:

This summer we were not able to get enough teens to register for any summer service trips because of conflicts with summer school, sports, and vacations. We will be starting signups earlier this year hoping to get a commitment before people make plans for the summer.

#### Confirmation:

- Most of this summer has been focused on preparing to make some changes to our Confirmation preparation. We are changing several aspects of our approach including meeting here at the parish, during Sunday morning and incorporating Mass as part of the preparation. You can see details in the attached letter that was sent out to families. We are hoping to include more youth as ministers at the 12:15 Masses that we will be attending, and working with the different adults who are responsible for those.
- We are also working with the parish staff to create a retreat for parents whose children are receiving confirmation this year. It will be offered three times during the year and will include lunch and three sessions on the sacraments of initiation. This will be a requirement in order to receive the sacrament.

We worked with Mike Prus and others to install a wireless network throughout the building and smart TV's and DVD players in all of the classrooms. Catechists (and other ministries) will be able to access content on our shared network storage device and other "channels" on the Smart TV. Mike will continue working on content filtering to ensure that the network is secure. We hope this will give catechists access to more resources to create dynamic and engaging lesson plans.

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

The Adult Faith Formation schedule for 2014-15 is complete, and was distributed in the August 24<sup>th</sup> church bulletin. This year's schedule includes the following programs: Bible Study, Book Group, Business Breakfasts, Evening Enrichment, Morning Enrichment, Reflection Days, Retreats, Table for Two and Spiritual Direction.

### **Mental Health and Wellness: Jen Curtain**

- Don Helgesen was leading the formation of the ministry until he took a position with FEMA and became unable to commit due to lengthy travel. The group is currently in need of a staff sponsor. Sister Madelyn will take their petition to the next Staff meeting. The Mental Health and Wellness committee has agreed to hold off on any further promotion or planning with the ministry until a staff liaison has been assigned.
- Once a staff liaison is assigned, the ministry's focus for 2014-15 will be education for all members of SMMP on mental illness, common presentations and ways to deal with it. We will start with our middle school families and do education and awareness of Depression and Anxiety as well as put information together to help facilitate overall mental health and wellness through spiritual and physical means. The presentation to middle school groups will be a collaboration with NAMI entitled "Ending the Silence".

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

#### 10 Year Anniversary:

All Saints Catholic Academy is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as the 2014-2015 got under way on August 20<sup>th</sup>. We have graduated 229 students from our school to spread the message and model of Jesus Christ.

#### RICH in CORE Values – Respect Initiative:

All parents and school staff were invited to come to a June 11th meeting with the goal to build a road to improve our culture, to get parent and teacher feedback, and to brainstorm ideas to improve our culture. Over 55 parents and staff gathered and shared common thoughts and ideas on where we are today, and where we want to be to cultivate a culture of respect at ASCA.

After that meeting, parent and teacher volunteers got together in smaller groups to focus on areas that were voiced during the June 11th meeting as common concerns. The Committees then gathered and collaborated together to further develop our **Respect Initiatives**, now titled **RICH in CORE Values**. The word **RICH** spells out our values that define us ...**R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **C**ompassion, **H**umility. **CORE** spells out **C**ulture **O**f **R**espect because we want our values to be the **CORE** of how we interact with one another at ASCA. This initiative was instituted at the beginning of the school year and all students and parents signed a pledge.

#### Chamber of Commerce:

All Saints Catholic Academy is launching its **Chamber of Commerce** to promote business opportunities within our Catholic community in September, 2014. The purpose of the chamber is to provide a networking environment to utilize business opportunities in trusted surroundings. Some of the chamber services will include the following:

1. Providing a Service Directory
2. Regular Meetings
3. Networking Events
4. Employment Classifieds

Membership is open to All Saints parents past and present, and to those who have graduated as well.

-- Submitted by Janene Parisi

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## CSC Report: September 2014

**BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY:** The committee is organizing a Grief Support Group for adults that will be held for 8 weeks beginning October 6<sup>th</sup>. It will be led by Barb Burkhardt; a hospital chaplain at Edward Hospital and Good Samaritan Hospital. We had 8 new cases assigned for Bereavement in August and plan on meeting next, Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM.

**BLOOD DRIVE COMMITTEE:** The last Blood Drive was held on May 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. We were able to collect 41 units of blood for The Heartland Blood Center which serves all of the hospitals in our area. Our next blood drive is scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Center. We are always in need of donors, so please talk it up in your various committees.

**CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS:** The CCC will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in September for our first formal meeting of the new year. Our first order of business will be to elect a new chairperson.

**COMFORT CARE:** There was only one funeral luncheon during the summer and that was on July 25<sup>th</sup>. 35 people were expected and that was about the number of people they had. Cost was \$95.39 for chicken, butter cream, flowers. There continues to be a problem with the refrigerator and what is kept in it and how it is kept. During the summer months as St. Margaret Mary does not host PADS the refrigerator should be in better order, I would think. **Committees should be told that if they are not using the rest of food products brought in by them either throw out or take home.** My committee is instructed to do just that: Throw out, give away or take home everything we bring in. This keeps the refrigerator ready for the next group that must use it. I was informed that a large donation was made to the Funeral Luncheon Committee/Fund recently for the work we do.

**DAYBREAK TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COMMITTEE:** We have interviewed 2 individuals for our new Daybreak guest and have selected one. The building manager will conduct a back ground check before we are a full go. We have already started a furniture drive and a car drive. We are looking forward to helping

this single mother and her 15 year old daughter. The monthly rent is \$1,050 plus a utility charge of \$45/month (garbage,etc,) and it is located at Huntington Condominiums on Maple and Naper. It is a 2 bedroom, 1 bath unit.

**MEN'S CLUB:** The men's club met on Aug. 19th in the upper room. It was a great night for fellowship as we had a record number of people at the meeting (74). For the past three months our main service project is preparation for the annual St. Margaret Mary Picnic to be held on Sept. 7th. While we are gaining many deposits in our checking account the money is leaving just as fast for deposits and other picnic expenses. Our Fiscal year ends Oct. 30th allowing us to pay all Picnic expenses and to plan our service projects for the following year based on our real income. We are continually striving to gain members from the Gen X and Millennial generations. For this reason we will be volunteering at the Loaves and Fishes Food bank Oct. 25th. Our goal is to turn this into a parish wide project that will attract younger men to our club due to our service projects. I hope to have this as a monthly project for the men's club. Our goal is to continue to expand our service offerings to the parish and community.

**NURSERY:** Nursery numbers have been steady this summer overall. So far August has been a little bit quieter. I expect numbers to increase as RE begins early September. Cia and Ashley Lester continue to be the main babysitters, with Riley Lomax and Patricia La Bore babysitting once a month (since January). This combination has worked extremely well. Instead of 2 toy washes a year, we may just schedule one in Jan/Feb since additional volunteers have been slim to none. Our nursery liaison, Carrie Tilton writes, "I'm entering my last official year as nursery volunteer. I may need help (word of mouth, bulletin ads and announcements) to find a new volunteer. I'd like to move over to RE catechist next school year but would be happy to be fully involved in a transition next fall."

**PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE:** No report

**PEACE & JUSTICE ADVISORY WORKING GROUP:** Looking ahead to the fall our group will be attentive to the first visit of Pope Francis to the U.S. in September. Also, in October Pope Francis will be releasing an encyclical on the environment and on November 4<sup>th</sup> state and federal elections will be held. Our first parish social mission week will take place the week of Oct 26<sup>th</sup> and will focus on the biblical concept of "the orphan" and will include advocacy and actions on behalf of unaccompanied children at the U.S. border.

Our **EARTH CARE** committee is planning to educate parishioners about our efforts to make the parish "Styrofoam-free." There will be another Christmas Light recycling effort and we will continue publishing our Earth Care Tips in the bulletin.

**PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE:** Mother's Day and Father's Day cards fundraiser to benefit Project Love netted about \$500. On the suggestion of Mary Beth Sanchez, we will be showing the documentary, "40", on Wednesday, October 22. The documentary deals with the 40 years of legal abortion and its effect on our society.

**SCOUTS:** BSA Troop 507 assisted with the SMMP garage sale in August and is planning on helping with the upcoming picnic in September.

**SEPTEMBER CLUB:** On Wednesday June 4, 2014, 22 members gathered together at Home Run Inn for a pizza buffet in anticipation of Father's Day. On Wednesday afternoon August 6, 2014, 38 members and guests gathered in the parish center. Guests were treated to an ice cream social & a selection of desserts.

Father Tom led us in prayer. August birthdays and anniversaries were recognized and all present were encouraged to remember those who are ill in their prayers in addition to remembering members that have recently passed away. The September meeting will feature bingo & a catered lunch.

**SHARING PARISH:** The Mega Garage Sale was successful in all regards, including realizing a profit that is either the highest or second highest. This money will be the basis for the tuition assistance amounts decided on in the Spring for the 2015 -2016 academic year. By early in October we will request that checks for tuition assistance for the first semester of this year (funds from the 2013 Mega Garage Sale) be sent to the respective schools. We had already been notified by a parent that one of our students was withdrawing because a financial emergency in the extended family made the remaining family tuition responsibility unaffordable. After determining that the child did wish to be enrolled and discussing what would be needed with the principal, the committee decided to approve additional funds. This brought our total commitment to a little more than the \$12,000 a year that had become customary.

We were able to respond to the need because less money had been appropriated last Spring. One reason for that was that the 2013 Garage Sale only brought in \$10,000 and we thought that might be a trend of hard times. Also, we did not replace the child who had graduated with a new student; there was no new request, and we were reluctant to seek a commitment to any new people because of uncertainty about where Sharing Parish will be. When I have explained that to people who have put so much effort into the Garage Sale, they invariably have told me that I have to stick up for these children and see that they are able to continue until they graduate, and that is certainly my intent. One more child will graduate this year and two more next year. There are five more children, the youngest two being in second grade this year. Although people are told every year that no money is guaranteed beyond what is promised on a year to year basis and dependent on their good use of it, we all feel committed to continuing to support their success.

Sharing Parish was a Pastoral Council initiative -- the only program that was, as far as I know -- formalized with St. Nicholas and Sacred Heart in 1990 after inquiring for a parish in the Joliet Diocese and being told there was no suitable possibility. While Charitable Contributions did provide considerable sums of money to Sacred Heart, St. Nicholas, and Archbishop Romero School when SMMP was tithing 10% of parish income, our main emphasis was personal involvement: moving supplies and desks, cleaning, painting, etc. to prepare Romero School for opening; volunteering at Romero School, including providing a library and a computer lab; bilingual interactive Prayer Services; attending fiestas; sharing Liturgies; teaching English to adults; etc. -- whatever they found helpful.

Being chosen by the Notre Dame Club for two or three years as their Christmas in April project led to the establishment of Aurora Christmas in April, run by the City of Aurora and Aurora businesses, and Christmas in Parish at SMMP, provided by the Men's Club. When The Literacy Center opened at St.

There, we encouraged people to volunteer for their program which was more structured than what we had been providing and also offered training. It is amazing how many people from SMMP have volunteered at The Literacy Center over the years and how many people are presently volunteering there.

Our most ambitious "one- day" project was a Parish Service Day -- in 2005 -- which provided work crews (sixty people) all day at Sacred Heart, St. Nicholas, and Romero School to clean, paint outside and inside, pull weeds, plant, put down carpet tiles, update bathrooms, and repair windows (with preliminary and follow-up electrical and plumbing work.) We continue now to provide Easter hams, Thanksgiving turkeys, and food gift cards instead of the holiday baskets that were donated at the very beginning.

We have tried this past year to reestablish more personal involvement with Sacred Heart, and have been disappointed to find that their interest seems very limited. It has been suggested that we partner with a parish in the Joliet Diocese, and I would be glad to go where there would be enthusiasm for involvement and interaction. I hope that SMMP will continue to be in a Sharing Parish relationship. I also think it is important to continue to support our tuition assistance recipients. By supporting them we are really supporting the Catholic Grammar Schools which they attend and helping them to make it possible to provide educations for mostly poor students

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:** This past month we helped we helped 11 individuals / families. Most were parishioners, including a family with several children. A high percentage was single mothers struggling to get by, in between jobs, often facing medical bills. Some were helping with parents. Our check book balance is low, so this month most of the time we could only help with utilities or a car payment.

-- Submitted by Tom Cordaro