

**St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL**  
**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**March 3, 2015**

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

**Members Absent:** None

Council President Barb Zdon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room at SMMP. Tom Zakosek offered an opening prayer.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2015 MEETING MINUTES:**

**Neil Gorman moved to approve the minutes from February 3, 2015, as containing a correction on p. 2, with Tom Zakosek seconding, and the Council approving these.** The minutes, along with the Commission reports, will now be posted onto the Council's online web page.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Nominations Committee:** Victoria Kosirog reported that the nomination process, which she and Phil Samuels are co-chairing, is "going great." They already have the names of at least nine good candidates to invite for At-Large Council Member discernment, in order to fill the two positions being vacated in June 2015. Victoria then provided hardcopies of the 2015 Timeline for At-Large Council Member Recruitment. Current activities, including:

- Calling nominees from prior and existing lists (March 2-26)
- Running the nomination form in the parish bulletin on three separate weekends (March 28-29, April 4-5, and April 11-12), with pre-Mass announcements about this

Council resumed its discussion from last month about having a teen representative on Council. Victoria confirmed that the teen candidate currently expressing interest in serving on Council is sixteen years old and that the teen representative position is currently defined in the Pastoral Council Constitution as someone having "attained the age of 16." In consultation, Sr. Madelyn supported having teen candidates participate in the same discernment process with the adult candidates. Dan Lawler, Director of Youth Ministry, also approved the teen candidate discerning as a Council representative – he will look for other potential teen representative candidates.

The Pastoral Council Constitution, as posted online to the Council's web page, was last amended in 2008. The provision for a one-year youth representative term, as contained

in the 2005 Constitution, was deleted in the 2008 Constitution. Although it is suggested that the Pastoral Council Constitution should be reviewed and updated every three years, this has not yet taken place again. Victoria recommended that Council should review its Constitution soon in order to “refresh” it.

Council accepted the following proposals:

1. That a teen representative from the parish between the ages of 16-20 be allowed to serve on Pastoral Council for a one-year term during the 2015-16 year, starting in July 2015.
2. That a teen representative could serve on Council in addition to but not taking the place of one of the two adult At-Large Council Representative positions, which will run for three-year terms starting in July 2015.
3. That any and all candidates interested in the teen representative position on Council participate in the same discernment process as the adult representative candidates, starting in April 2015.

There was some additional discussion about the special task assignments traditionally given to the two first-year vs. two second-year At-Large Council Representatives, with the former assigned to co-chairing the Nominations Committee for new At-Large Representatives and the latter assigned to co-chairing the annual Parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. There was some thought that these assigned tasks should be reversed within these two groups. It was also noted that all Council Members should be recruiting new candidates for At-Large Representatives, with this task not just belonging to the Nominations co-chairs. Council will make some decisions about these task assignments at next month’s meeting.

**PARISH MISSIONAL DIRECTIVES:** Tom Cordaro led Council in their review of the draft wording for the new two-year Parish Missional Directives, with his having similarly led Parish Staff Leadership about these earlier in the day. These Missional Directives were collaboratively created by Council and Parish Staff Leadership over five months of discernment work and then crafted at the Leadership Community Gathering held on 2/07/15. A sub-committee, consisting of Neil Gorman, Phil Samuels, Barb Zdon, Deacon Ken Miles, and Tom Cordaro had worked on the draft wording of these Missional Directives, following last month’s Leadership Community Gathering.

The new Missional Directives for the parish, to be implemented for the next two years include:

### **FIRST MISSIONAL DIRECTIVE**

**We live in a time of uncertainty about the future of Catholic parish life we have known. Religion no longer holds a special place for many in our Naperville/Lisle**

**Community, and we can no longer make assumptions about what our parishioners believe. At the same time, we sense a deep hunger for the eternal truths of the Gospel not solely focused on rules, laws, and prohibitions.**

**As followers of Jesus the Christ and members of the Catholic Church, we believe we are called to new and full lives that include a personal, active, genuine encounter with Jesus, our Lord. We believe these energized relationships will allow us to empower others to follow Jesus in a purposeful way.**

## **SECOND MISSIONAL DIRECTIVE**

**We do not always see the needs of others and engage these needs with an active faith life. The response to Pope Francis has shown us that there is a longing for an authentic Gospel-based Christianity grounded in love, forgiveness, and mercy.**

**As followers of Jesus the Christ and members of the Catholic Church, we are called to live authentic Christian lives committed to God's Kingdom, demonstrating the principles of love, forgiveness, and mercy. We believe that living this way begins with our fellow parishioners and extends to the entire world.**

Council then recommended that the original sub-committee, which had drafted the Missional Directives, should also work on writing the Parish Theme and Preamble for these. There was agreement that the new two-year Parish Theme should carry forward the message previously expressed with the parish's preceding themes. Council and Parish Leadership will review recommendations for the Preamble and Parish Theme at their respective meetings next month.

Following this Council took a break from 8:00-8:15 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Tom Zakosek. Tom was thanked for these.

### **COMMISSION REPORTS:**

**Administration: [Saint Margaret Mary Parish Administration Commission Minutes of February 18, 2015 were electronically submitted in advance by Mike Prus, a copy of which is shown hereto].**

**[Finance Committee Notes were electronically submitted in advance by Neil Gorman, a copy of which is shown hereto].**

Neil Gorman attended the Finance Committee meeting on 2/18/15 as a representative of Pastoral Council. He reported that plans to replace the church's 30-year old HVAC system are "on track" and that the Administration Commission is doing a good job with this. The targeted replacement work is for October.

The Men's Club has obtained quotes and ordinance requirements for a lighted digital church sign to replace the current aging wooden one, along with doing a picture study of four local churches' new signs. A perpendicularly-placed digital sign (for viewing from Naper Blvd.) is currently estimated at \$25,000-\$30,000, while a larger diagonally-placed sign (for viewing from Naper Blvd. and Green Trails Drive) is estimated at \$60,000. Although the Men's Club might be able to contribute \$5,000-\$8,000 toward a sign, they would only be able to assist with its partial cost. Due to the immediate high priority need to replace the church's HVAC system, a replacement church sign is not considered to be such a priority. Instead, the church's existing wooden sign will be repaired.

**Christian Worship (CWC): [Worship Commission – March 2015 was electronically submitted in advance by Tom Zakosek, a copy of which is shown hereto].**

Tom Zakosek, CWC Representative, reported the retirement announcement of Mary Lou Krauss, Parish Art and Environment Director. There was some continued discussion about replacing the church's crystal communion cups. In addition, Tom noted that the number of Baptisms is increasing.

**Christian Education (CEC): [CEC Ministry Reports for March 2015, along with St. Margaret Mary Religious Education and Youth Ministry 2015-2016 Registration Policy, were electronically submitted in advance by Janene Parisi, copies of which are shown hereto].**

According to Janene Parisi, CEC Representative, requested Council approval for SMMP's Religious Education and Youth Ministry's 2015-16 Registration Policy, which was submitted in advance for their review. She noted that it was created to especially deal with late registrations and is consistent with the policy of other parishes in the Diocese. In this, any registrations received after July 15<sup>th</sup> will be charged a \$25 late fee, and placements will be made by availability. Registrations received after August 21<sup>st</sup> will be charged a \$50 late fee, and these submissions will be put on hold as the school year begins.

**Council approved St. Margaret Mary Religious Education and Youth Ministry 2015-16 Registration Policy by acclamation.**

Janene reported that the “Warm a Heart” Junior High Benefit held on 2/13/15 was a big success – it had included a DJ, crafts, and games for over 80 participants. Many junior high students from the parish had also invited their non-Catholic friends to this fun, safe, and positive event at SMMP. Janene also noted how many students positively posted about this event through social media.

Amy Van Eekeren, Head Boys’ Volleyball Coach at Benet Academy and parent, presented on “Coaching for Character” at SMMP on 3/1/15. This was sponsored by SMMP Youth Ministry.

**Christian Service (CSC): [Christian Service Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council – March 3, 2015 was electronically submitted in advance by Cabrina Attal, a copy of which is shown hereto].**

According to Cabrina Attal, CSC Representative, Cailin Ramirez has volunteered to replace Carrie Tilton as the Nursery Coordinator. This transition will take place during the summer.

Council discussed updating the parish directory to include permanent e-mail contact addresses, group e-mail addresses, and committee head contact information for parish service committees. Tom Cordaro noted that the directory’s publication deadline is coming up very soon -- he will inquire if it is still possible to make such changes to the 2015 Parish Directory. According to Tom, the parish receives these annual directories free of charge, as underwritten by its advertisers – due to this, it might not be possible to add to its length or make large print layout changes.

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

**Stewardship Committee:** Neil Gorman presented plans for a Stewardship Appeal, to be led by him and co-chair Phil Samuels. He and Phil will speak at all of the Masses on April 18-19, especially promoting electronic contributions by *ParishPay* and increases in giving. Council representatives are requested to distribute and collect commitment cards in the Narthex after each of these Masses during the weekends of April 18-19 and April 25-26. Further plans will be discussed at next month’s meeting.

**Council approved by acclamation that the Stewardship Appeal be presented by Neil Gorman and Phil Samuels at all of the Masses on April 18-19, with Council Members assisting with Contribution Commitment Cards in the Narthex for all of these Masses.**

There was a lengthy discussion about the difficulty in correctly determining the number of active vs. inactive/withdrawn and contributing vs. non-contributing parishioner households, along with the need to collect better data. Nevertheless, Neil reviewed the

data which he had gathered and analyzed. It was also noted that approximately 30% of the families listed in the annual parish directory are no longer SMMP parishioners. In addition, significant costs could be saved if the contribution envelope packets were no longer mailed to every registered parishioner family. Council will continue its discussion about these at next month's meeting.

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

- "Fr. Murray raised awareness."
- "You two gentlemen [Neil and Phil] did a great deal of hard work on Stewardship."
- "Thanks."
- "I was very impressed with the data presented, despite the difficulty with data mining."
- "Good meeting."
- "I appreciated everyone's hard work – what a labor of love."
- "The Missional Directives represent a lot of hard work – excellent job."
- "What wonderful passion has been shown throughout this year."
- "Thanks – certain parts get rather intense. Next is evangelization."
- "New families – new stewardship – new directives from the Holy Spirit."
- "The Holy Spirit leads people to new directions and sets them on fire."

**CLOSING:** Tom Zakosek offered a closing prayer.

Following this, the meeting concluded at 9:30 p.m.

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

*April Opening/Closing Prayer: Barbara Zdon*

*April Refreshments: Barbara Zdon*

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury  
Recording Secretary

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**SAINT MARGARET MARY PARISH  
ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of Wednesday, February 18, 2015**

Members Present: Tom Hill, Jeff Jameson, Chuck Marquis, Michael Prus, Klaus Rummer, Sue Schroeder, Bob Stezowski.

Members Absent: None.

Also Attending: Neil Gorman.

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

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the December 10, 2014 meeting were approved “by acclamation”, without changes.

**3. Discussion/Decision Items:**

A. Parish Sign

Bob Stezowski reported on his study of a possible parish sign. He obtained information regarding municipal code requirements, which include: maximum 45 sq. ft., not including support structure; maximum 10 feet high; up to 50% of signage can be electronic; minimum 10 foot setback; street address information and surrounding foliage is required; electronic message changeable at most every 10 seconds; “scrolling” is not permitted. Bob offered three pencil designs as initial possibilities. Software controlling the electronics can be wirelessly connected to a church computer. No price range has yet been discussed.

Neil Gorman noted the Men’s Club study of signs in the recent past. These estimates ranged from about \$18000 to \$30000. Neil said the Men’s Club would likely be able to contribute \$5000 to \$8000 toward such a project.

The commission discussed the cost feasibility of a new sign. Further clarification of the cost of the coming Church AHU project would be helpful; this might be obtainable by our next meeting. The purchase of a sign will need to be weighed in relation to other upcoming repair/replacement projects. The commission asked Bob to explore costs for permanent repairs to the existing sign; or alternately, for short-term repairs, anticipating a new sign in the near future.

B. HVAC Equipment

In regard to the Church air handler equipment replacement project, Jeff Jameson reported that after soliciting two proposals for the engineering study discussed last meeting, we received just one, but for a good price (\$4900). The engineer visited here on February 2, and will complete the report by the end of the month. Jeff was told that the sizing of the AHU should be the same as the original installation. After receiving the report, Jeff anticipates that we can solicit bids for the larger project in March. Jeff will work with Mike Prus to pursue the bid process toward the signing of a contract, with work targeted during October.

Jeff also followed up regarding the Chapel, where since its enclosure in December, the temperature had become consistently quite warm. Jeff reviewed the equipment, and later Bob called Tradewinds to study further. Bob has since been able to control the temperature to a large extent, but with limited means. Jeff will continue discussion with Mike and with Bob.

#### C. Scheduling future meetings

The commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, April 29, at 7:30 PM.

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

A. Chuck Marquis: No further report.

B. Bob Stezowski, Building Manager: No further report.

C. Sue Schroeder, Finance: No further report.

D. Michael Prus, Business Manager: 1) Greco Electric visited here in January to address our parking lot lights, as many have been out. Some work was done, but more lights will require new frame assemblies. Greco will return when the weather is better. 2) Work was done to address needs in regard to the sprinkler system, as identified by the Fire Department.

E. Tom Hill, Chairperson & Building Committee: Tom will continue his study to gain more information for projections for the parking lots.

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

G. Klaus Rummer: No further report.

**5. New Business:** Neil Gorman thanked Sue for her presentation to the Pastoral Council regarding the parish's financial status and the budget process. Sue noted that the Council created a committee to study ways to increase collections. Neil said that this group will be looking for ways to reach out to parishioners.

**6. Evaluation:** Good meeting.



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

*-- Report Submitted by Mike Prus*

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**FINANCE COMMITTEE NOTES:** Report from Neil Gorman on the activities of the Finance Committee

Neil Gorman attended the Finance Committee meeting on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> as a representative of the Pastoral Council. Neil spoke to the committee regarding our budget directives and our plans to go to the parish for the increase in funds needed to keep the 30 year old physical plant in repair. The Finance Committee discussed the HVAC replacement. This project used the services of an engineering firm to study needs and to make recommendations for a bid to be sent out to industrial HVAC contractors. The bids will be released in March, with replies due in May, and installation in the September-October time frame. The poor state of the parking lot lighting was discussed. Many covers to the present lighting were broken or not replaced. This creates a safety concern, along with higher costs, by forcing us to replace the bulbs sooner. Once the weather is better, these lights will be repaired. The Men's Club and the Maintenance Staff both investigated replacement of our present parish sign. Costs are approximately \$25,000-\$35,000. The Finance Committee asked the Maintenance Staff to repair our present sign, as there are other projects that are priorities.

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## Worship Commission

March 2015

Sacristans:

Trained 2 people to help with clean-up after 12:15 Mass. And, with Mary Lou Krauss, have researched special occasion cups and plates to replace the existing crystal. Have found a pewter set that could potentially work. Very expensive. Samples were ordered. Still deciding whether to go forward with the purchase.

Lectors:

We were happy to welcome 4 new lectors in February, including 3 more new teenagers. At the same time, we were very saddened to lose long-time lector Patricia Rummer - she will be missed.

Lent through Easter is the busiest time of the year for lectors as we will have many special masses and services requiring lectors to volunteer. But it is also the most fulfilling time for our ministry.

Several more families and parishioners have signed up to be gift bearers. We encourage each of you to sign up on line to do this.

Greeters:

Not much to report this month. We are starting to sign up greeters for Holy Week.

We are also inviting those sitting in the Narthex to come into Church to attend Mass.

Deacon Miles:

1. Lenten insert prepared, published in bulletin
2. Holy Thursday planning, simpler liturgy, washing of feet as in the past
3. Friday Adoration, Stations of the Cross. Last Friday, good attendance at Adoration, 6 for Stations. First Friday, none for Adoration until 6 pm, then Healing Mass. Some for Reconciliation

Mary Lou Krauss:

We have been busy with several projects. I had my last Taize with John. It was very bittersweet and beautiful. I will miss working with John. This will be my last Easter too. We will be decorating on Good Friday evening at 8:30. We will need help as always.

I have also selected new communion vessels with Barb R. I have sample of the wine goblet and bread plate in my room if you would like to see them. I'm also getting bids and samples for new seat covers for our chairs. Now all we need is the money for all of this!

Thank you for all your support.

*--Report Submitted by Tom Zakosek*

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## **CEC Ministry Reports for February 2015**

### **PreK–Grade 5: Sue Davey**

First Communion registration information was mailed on January 5<sup>th</sup>. We still have about nine children who have not yet registered for a Mass. The third and final blessing rite with the candle was the weekend of February 28/March 1. The third and final Parent Sacrament Retreat scheduled for February 1<sup>st</sup> was cancelled due to snow. It has been re-scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>

During March, Father Paul will be visiting all of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes as they prepare for the sacrament. The First Communion retreat is Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. So far 60 children have registered to participate. A planning meeting for parent aides was February 24<sup>th</sup>. Our parent/child Bread Service will be March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> the first to fifth graders participated in the 5:00 Mass. About 17 children participated. Julie Carballo has now retired as coordinator of the children's masses and has turned the reigns over to Debbie Linton.

Our Ash Wednesday service on February 18<sup>th</sup> was well attended. Ten people helped to distribute the ashes.

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be presenting the Stations of the Cross to all of the classes during the week beginning March 21<sup>st</sup>.

I am still looking for someone to coordinate the Good Friday children's service on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

We hosted the "Warm a Heart" Junior High Benefit on Friday February 13<sup>th</sup> with a DJ, crafts, and games. The event seemed to be a great success. We ended up with over 80 teens attending and were able to collect several bags of pajamas and blankets to donate to local charities. We are hoping to hold the event again next year and increase our participation.

Our Confirmation Retreat went very well this year. The Peer Ministers prepared a very meaningful and engaging retreat experience for the sophomores. The feedback from participants and parents so far has been very positive. Our only challenge is people leaving early or arriving late because of other priorities.

We sent nine teens on our Deanery Ski Trip this year. Everyone had a lot of fun and came back safely!

Amy Van Eekeren joined us for our second Coaching for Character speaker event. Amy currently coaches boys volleyball at Benet but has coached at St. Raphael and Naperville Central in the past. We had about twenty people attend.

We are now beginning Confirmation Interviews for our candidates which will go on over the next two months.

Bridget Curran has volunteered again this year to lead a Junior High presentation of the Stations of the Cross. Practices begin this week and the date for the performance will be Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Church. All junior high youth are invited to attend and the entire parish family is welcome.

This last year, the RE staff encountered a number of issues with registrations and schedule changes. After discussing the different issues with CEC this year, we have decided to change the registration policies to help reduce some of the problems. We also compared these proposed changes with other parishes and found them to be very similar. Please see the attached document for the proposed changes.

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

Bible Study: Sr. Marianne Race, CSJ- our Bible Study leader for 2015-16-- has submitted suggested courses of study for the participants to choose from. The final decision will be made with the small group leaders on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Book Study: Group discussed *Judas: The Fifth Gospel*. Discussion was lively with most liking the book. March book: *Personal Reflections of Joan of Arc* by Mark Twain.

Business Breakfast: Greg Pierce's presentation on Feb. 21 was enjoyed by 26 participants. Topic: *God at Work: Uncover and Discover*.

Evening Enrichment: Don't miss Terry Nelson-Johnson's presentation on "Running the Paschal Mystery." 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>...COR Center. This will be a dynamic presentation on how to personally live the Paschal Mystery in our everyday lives. All are encouraged to attend.

Morning Enrichment: Fr. Paul spoke on "End of Life Issues" on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:15-11:15 a.m. to a crowd of 65 parishioners. We received many positive reviews with a few requests for a follow-up presentation on teachings surrounding funeral and burial rites.

We look forward to the presentation scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup> – "Sounds of Silence – Hearing God in a Noisy World."

Retreats: The Men's preached retreat is scheduled for March 6-8. To date, 19 are registered. This is the last retreat that Fr. Jonathan will co-lead. Al Gustafson and Fr. Dennis Lyle (retreat house director) have both offered to assist with future retreats.

We are waiting to see how many women will continue with the CRHP process. Only 7 women attended the first faith history meeting. The Ignatian Retreat is going well with 14 participants.

RCIA: The four men are eagerly looking forward to full membership in the Church at Easter. The Rite of Election was celebrated at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Also on March 1<sup>st</sup>, Fr. Paul spoke to the group about the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Spiritual Direction: With the Ignatian Retreat, I have four additional directees that I will be seeing each week.

Other: I have been helping to plan the reception for Fr. Jonathan....to be held March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

Jen Curtin and Mary Oliphant met with Sister Madelyn to review the ministry's accomplishments in 2014-2015 as well as their outstanding plans for the remainder of this year. They have also drafted a proposed plan for 2015-2016. Sister Madelyn will present the plan to Staff in March.

<b>CONTINUED PLAN FOR 2014-2015</b>
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- Bulletin articles for March, April, May: Mental Health 101, Combating Anxiety through Faith, Mental Illness and the Church

- Develop a spiritual walking group designed to help decrease anxiety, stress by walking and talking with others, ending with a group prayer. To begin in May in coordination with morning Mass.
- Jennifer Curtin being highlighted in Parish Heartbeats for March, 2015

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

As part of the RICH in CORE Values initiative, speaker and author, Amy Logan, addressed preschool through 4<sup>th</sup> graders on February 23<sup>rd</sup> in an assembly showing the children that they can make a difference every day just by doing the “little things”. Another assembly for grades 5-8 focused on leadership, mentorship to younger students and setting a good example. Amy Logan is the author of “A Girl with a Cape” and “A Girl with a Cape and her Jar of Pennies”.

All throughout Lent, All Saints students and their families will support the Hogar del Pobre orphanage in Celaya, Mexico with prayer and a clothing collection. For most of the children at the orphanage, the clothing that they receive from All Saints students will be the **only new outfit** that they receive all year long. In past years, All Saints families have generously been able to contribute over 700 pieces of clothing during the forty days of Lent, which is our current goal (many of our classrooms have set a class collection goal).

Upcoming Events: Dinner Dance Benefit – Saturday, March 14, 2015, Daddy-Daughter Dance – Saturday, April 11, 2015

*-- Report Submitted by Janene Parisi*

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**2015-2016 Registration Policy**

**Saint Margaret Mary Religious Education and Youth Ministry**

Please note the following expectations and deadlines when registering your family for Religious Education and Youth Ministry:

- 1) A registration is not complete unless we receive both the registration form and payment. No one will be allowed to attend class until registration is complete.**

2) Please register as soon as possible because we will begin class placements in the beginning of June and placements will be made on a first come, first served basis.

3) Any registration received after **July 15<sup>th</sup>** will be charged a late fee of **\$25** and placements will be made by availability.

4) After **August 21st**, a **\$50 late fee** will be charged for any late registrations. Additionally, these submissions will be collected and put on hold as the school year begins. Fulfillment, when possible, will be announced no later than the week of September 21.

5) Any family requesting a registration change after **August 21st**, must submit that request in writing with the **Change Request Form** and with a change fee payment of **\$15** per incident, to the R.E. office. Requests made by phone or email will not be honored. Changes to existing registrations will be given priority over late registrations. We will accommodate requests as best we can, but there is no guarantee we will be able to fulfill every one.

6) New parish families are exempt from late fees.

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## **Christian Service Commission**

### **Monthly Report to Parish Council**

**March 3, 2015**

**SMMP Men's Club:** The St. Margaret Mary Men's Club met on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>. This meeting was our annual couple's event. Members were encouraged to bring their wives as guest. We served 116 people as most members brought a guest. We had two members of St. Raphael Parish join us. Deacon Mark Leonardelli and Deacon-in-information Jerry Afeltra are trying to start a men's club at their parish. Jerry spoke about their program, which is bringing in Michael Franzese (a former mafia crime boss) to address their parish. We had John Blumberg as our guest speaker who spoke on the value of simplicity, how hard it is to get to this point in our lives due to the complications we bring into it. The meeting with speakers was a blessed event for all.

**Knights of Columbus:** The St Margaret Mary Knights of Columbus Council 16011 met on Thursday February 26. Main topics for the meeting were discussion of our upcoming Membership Information

meeting scheduled for March 12 and possible future service activities within and outside the parish. At the weekend services February 14-15, the Knights distributed information and surveys for anyone interested in learning more about our organization. We are active in the planning of the SMM charity walk that will be held on Saturday May 30. We are also planning on actively volunteering at the Special Olympics track meet the last weekend in April.

**Nursery:** Here are the nursery numbers for February:

2/1/15            Closed after 9am mass due to weather

2/8/15 9am:    3 kids, 2 families; 10:45am: 2 kids, 1 family

2/15/15            9am: 3 kids, 2 families; 10:45am: 1 kid, 1 family

2/22/15            9am: 3 kids, 2 families; 10:45am: 2 kids, 2 families

Cailin Ramirez has volunteered to replace Carrie Tilton as the Nursery Coordinator. They will transition this summer. Both Cailin and Carrie will attend the CSC budget meeting on March 5.

**Pastoral Care:** Three Pastoral Care ministers attended certification workshops in January and received certification from the Diocese.

**Parish Service Project Update:** Our Christian Service Commission is continuing plans for our May 30th charity walk to benefit Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry. Our planning committee is determining a route for our walk that will start and end at the church. There will be an informational program and prayer before the walk begins and a celebration at the end of the walk. In addition t-shirts will be made for participants. (We are looking for business who might want to underwrite some of the costs of the t-shirts in exchange for having their business logo on the back of t-shirts.) We are planning to provide for on-line registration and donations.

**Peace & Justice Advisory Working Group:** Plans are underway for our March 7/8 parish social mission week. The theme is "What does it mean to live the Sabbath?" and the focus will be on advocating for the Illinois Healthy Workplace Act, which will allow all workers to earn up to 7 paid sick days a year. We will be inviting parishioners to sign postcards directed to our state senators.

On Sunday, March 1st our parish hosted a Guatemalan youth dance group from the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (Spanish for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters") orphanage in Guatemala. This fall our parish will invite this group to preach at all Masses as part of our foreign missions appeal.

**Bereavement:** Bereavement committee met and 8 new client cases were assigned. Prayers said for those who have died and are listed in the book of remembrance. We had a short meeting so all could attend the 7:30 Ash Wednesday Mass. We meet next month on 3/18.

**Boy Scouts:** If the parish has any one-time service needs that our scouts ages 11-17 can help with, we'd welcome the invite. We currently assist with the Garage Sale in August, Parish Picnic in September and



color guard for the Veteran's Day service. In the past we did help the Men's Club with some mulch around the church, but that request hasn't happened in a few years.

**Pro-L.I.F.E. Committee:** Baby Bottle fundraiser: Due to the blizzard the weekend of January 31-February 1, we offered baby bottles after all the Mass both that weekend and the next weekend. We gave out all 400 bottles. As of now, we have had 153 returned. It's now unusual to have bottles dribble in for a few weeks. Most of the bottles have been returned to Woman's choice Services. I expect to get a total dollar amount collected sometime in March. "40 Days for Life" continues, with Access Clinic being the prayer vigil site. A flyer is posted on the bulletin boards.

**Funeral Ministry:** Had one Funeral Luncheon in February. Approximately 125 attended. The cost was \$236.80.

**September Club:** On Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 29 members braved the winter weather to enjoy a delicious lunch at the House of Emperor. Members were asked to remember those members who are ill in their prayers. January & February birthdays and anniversaries were recognized. In March we will meet at Quincy's. Details will be in the upcoming bulletin.

**Daybreak Transitional Housing:** Daybreak had its first meeting after the death of our long time member - Patricia Rummer. She will be missed. This was followed up with some sad news - our case manager from Catholic Charities informed Patricia McAuliffe that the brain tumor she had 5 years ago, and from which she lost the sight in one eye, has returned. She is deciding what treatment to take but will have to take at least a 2-month leave from Catholic Charities. Our committee will be kept updated on who our new case manager will be, and interviews for a new guest will continue. Our apartment is in good shape and fully furnished so we are ready to go once an acceptable guest is approved by CC and our committee.

**Sharing Parish:** The Sharing Parish Scholarship Fund Garage Sale will be held on Friday, June 26, followed by a Reduced Prices Sale on Saturday, June 27. Donations will be accepted starting Saturday afternoon, June 20. Everyone (all ages!) is welcome to volunteer anytime during working hours the week of the Garage Sale -- there is lots to do! There will be a sign-up shortly before the Sale. Profits are dedicated to tuition assistance for students at Catholic Grammar Schools in Aurora.

**Charitable Contributions:** We mourn the passing of committee chairman Philip DuPont this past week. May his family be comforted by the love and sympathies of the parish.

-- *Submitted by Cabrina Attal*