

**St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL**  
**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**September 1, 2015**

**Members Present:** Cabrina Attal, Tom Cordaro, Neil Gorman, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Victoria Kosirog, Janene Parisi, Brian Pelz, Jessica Schoder, Carl Van Dril, Don Wenig, Tom Zakosek

**Members Absent:** Mike Newell

**Guest Presenter:** Linda Tomasello

In Council President Mike Newell's absence, Vice-President Neil Gorman opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. in the Upper Room at SMMP. Victoria Kosirog played a recorded song as an opening prayer.

Neil Gorman welcomed new Council members to their first meeting of the 2015-16 year, including: Brian Pelz (CWC Representative); Jessica Schoder (Youth Representative); Carl Van Dril (At-Large Representative); and Don Wenig (At-Large Representative). He also introduced parishioner Linda Tomasello, who would be presenting a plan for an Alzheimer's Support Group at SMMP.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 2015 MEETING MINUTES:**

**Cabrina Attal motioned to approve the meeting minutes from June 2, 2015, with Janene Parisi seconding, and the Council approving these.** The minutes, along with Commission reports, will now be posted onto the Council's online web page.

**PRESENTATION ON ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP:** Linda Tomasello, an active SMMP member for the past 32 years, presented a plan to start an Alzheimer's support group at SMMP. Linda is currently employed at Arden Courts of Glen Ellyn in the Memory Care Community, where she has worked for the past eight years and where her mother now resides. Linda has completed the required facilitator training and background check through the Alzheimer's Association to lead a caregivers' support group, for which she would also need to take continued training and receive ongoing support through them. She then reviewed the Alzheimer's Association's requirements to become a host site, for which SMMP would need to enter into a one-year contractual agreement with Alzheimer's Association and adhere to its requirements. Some of these requirements include:

- participation being open to members of the community [and not just to parishioners or other church members]
- adherence to Alzheimer's Association chapter policies about non-solicitation [with no religious proselytizing, etc.]
- establishment of a consistent day, time, and place for meetings
- maintenance of confidentiality in a safe environment, with all records belonging to Alzheimer's Association
- referral to appropriate outside resource help as needed

Linda would be available to facilitate a support group at SMMP on a once-monthly basis in the evening and would need to work with Mike Prus, parish Business Manager, to coordinate available dates, times, and meeting space for this. She suggested initially promoting the support group within the SMMP community and then expanding its promotion to other neighboring churches. Once approved as a support group, its meeting information would also be included in an online directory of area support groups through the Alzheimer's Association. Linda also noted that there is much interest in SMMP's becoming a host support group site, especially serving this part of Lisle-Naperville. Other support group meetings are currently offered at Sunrise Assisted Living [535 W. Ogden Avenue, Naperville] and at Arden Courts [2 S 706 Park Boulevard, Glen Ellyn].

Neil Gorman motioned that Council explore the possibility of SMMP becoming an Alzheimer's support group host site, pending forthcoming information about any needed insurance coverage, consistent meeting room space availability, and approval by the pastor and/or the Diocese. Tom Cordaro and Don Wenig seconded this. Although Council would like Linda Tomasello to be the planned initial support group facilitator, it would also like for her to have a trained co-facilitator within the first 6-7 months of the support group's start-up. Council requested that Linda Tomasello report back to Tom Cordaro with answers before next month's meeting, with her not needing to attend the October meeting for this.

Council especially noted how SMMP's hosting an Alzheimer's support group would fit in with its missional directives. It determined that that the support group would not need to be assigned to one of SMMP's Commissions [Christian Service or Christian Education], especially due to its non-denominational nature and open participation by the community [such as with Alcoholics Anonymous, which also meets at SMMP].

Lastly, there was some concern raised at tonight's meeting that Alzheimer's Association, along with a number of other charitable organizations, has reportedly had some association with supporting Planned Parenthood and/or its agenda. It is not yet known whether or not there would be objection within the parish or Diocese for entering into a contractual agreement with Alzheimer's Association due to this. Fr. Paul suggested that we ask Linda about Alzheimer Association's association with Planned Parenthood and investigate further with the Diocese.

Linda was thanked for her presentation prior to her departure.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Monthly Meeting Sign-Up (Prayer and Snacks):** Council members signed up to lead opening/closing prayer and provide snacks for the upcoming monthly meetings.

**Parish Picnic (9/13/15):** Council members are asked to lend their support to assist the Men's Club with the upcoming Parish Picnic, including with set-up on Saturday and

Sunday morning, if possible. Council members should wear their name tags (available in the Council's mailbox in the Parish Center) throughout the day at the picnic.

**Parish Theme Kickoff (9/13/15 Weekend Masses)**: Tom Cordaro and Cabrina Attal reviewed plans for Council's help with the kickoff for the new Parish Theme and Calling, "Hearts on Fire: Come Encounter Jesus and Embrace His Kingdom." Tom will offer a lay reflection about this at the 12:30 p.m. Mass on 9/13/15; and Council members are asked to wear their nametags at the 9/13/15 weekend Masses and be prepared to briefly answer questions posed to them about the new Parish Theme. Cabrina directed Council to review the "Parish Theme Talking Points" document, which was recently sent out to them online. Some additional suggestions were shared about this at tonight's meeting.

**FALL PARISH LEADERSHIP GATHERING (8/22/15) – FOLLOW-UP**: Tom Cordaro stated that he was very pleased with the recent Fall Leadership Gathering and turnout. Overall evaluations were very positive. Tom noted that the long-range communication strategy goals for the new Parish Theme still need to be developed from the brainstorming ideas generated at the Fall Gathering.

Upcoming plans include: initial discussion about long-range communication strategy goals (in October), with continued discussion and a strong finish (in November), prior to the Winter Parish Leadership Gathering (2/06/16). There was some additional discussion about the importance of being in touch with one's own faith journey and being able to talk about this with others, e.g. "This is who Jesus is to me, and this is how He's changed me."

**SMMP "MINISTRY INFORMATION TABLE"**: Victoria Kosirog, Head of Newcomers Committee, led a discussion about SMMP's needing a better "Ministry Information" kiosk, cart, or table. She suggested its being on wheels and being located in the library lobby area. In addition, there is an ongoing need for a place where newcomers can sign up for ministry services, with this information remaining in a secure place. Victoria also shared a few pictures and ideas for this, including those used by other local parishes.

**Ad Hoc Communications Committee**: Victoria Kosirog, Neil Gorman, and Carl Van Dril agreed to work on an Ad Hoc Communications Committee, with further discussion about an "Information Kiosk" being planned for the October Council meeting. The committee will further investigate the various ministries' follow-up responses made to new volunteer sign-up information (provided to them from the recent Ministry Sign-Up Day).

Following this, Council took a break from 8:30-8:45 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Victoria Kosirog. Victoria was thanked for these.

**PARISH CONVOCATION (9/23/15):** Tom Cordaro reviewed preparations and assignments for the upcoming Parish Convocations, noting that more help is still needed for refreshment set-up and serving, along with more small-group facilitating and note taking. Convocation information will be appearing shortly in the parish bulletin, and individual e-mail invitations will be sent out after Labor Day.

The next Convocation planning meeting will be held on 9/10/15.

**SMALL FAITH-SHARING GROUPS:** The small-group leaders meeting will be held on 9/16/15 at 7:30 p.m. and will include distribution of books. “Closed” groups, e.g. CRHP groups, will need to determine their own meeting dates and times shortly. “Open” groups will receive their 90-minute meeting confirmations.

Group leaders who cannot attend the 9/16/15 meeting should contact Tom Cordaro.

**PARISH VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER (1/16/16):** The two first-year At-Large Representatives, Carl Van Dril and Don Wenig, will be planning the upcoming Appreciation Dinner, working with a budget of \$2,500-\$2,900 for this. Among the planning tasks will include choosing the theme and selecting a caterer. Other Council members will provide guidance and further help with this. Carl also noted that he will be performing with the band at the dinner.

**NOMINATIONS AND RECRUITMENT:** The two second-year At-Large Representatives, Victoria Kosirog and Tom Zakosek, will be heading up this year’s Nominations and Recruitment for new At-Large Representatives Council members.

### **COMMISSION REPORTS:**

**Administration:** [*Saint Margaret Mary Parish Administration Commission Minutes of Wednesday, July 15, 2015* were electronically sent in advance by Mike Prus, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Neil Gorman reviewed highlights of the Administration report, also noting that the Commission only meets quarterly. The main church replacement HVAC system was ordered in early July, with installation targeted around the October 16-23 period. The contract amount for \$255,098 will be coming out of SMMP’s Contingency Fund.

The outdoor parish sign on Naper Blvd. and Green Trails Road is in need of major repair. The main wooden beam is rotting, and a new beam is estimated to cost about \$1,700 – in addition, the concrete footing, along with electrical system, need replacement. The Commission roughly calculated that the total of a short-term repair (anticipating replacement of the sign within a few years) would be approximately \$2,500 – with the inclusion of parts and labor, this would run about \$3,000. For a long-term repair (anticipating keeping the sign indefinitely), this would be approximately \$4,000-\$5,000.

Council inquired about the ongoing recovery of parish Morning Custodian Ziggy Owiesek's recent injury, hoping that he will be able to return shortly back to work.

Neil expressed his concern that no financial report about weekly collections has appeared in the parish bulletin since 6/20/15 and that the financial information on the parish web page is approximately one-year old (from FY 2013/14).

**Stewardship:** In response to the parish finance update presented this past spring by Ad Hoc Stewardship Committee Members Phil Samuels and Neil Gorman at all of the Sunday Masses, Neil stated that, in reviewing the parish bulletin from 6/21/14, the parish had collected \$1,243,176 and was \$34,817 under budget. According to the 6/22/15 parish bulletin, the parish had collected \$1,272,211 and was \$22,159 over goal. The needed \$22,000 for the 2015/16 parish budget is being met in collections. However, more detail is required from the parish Business Manager.

The contribution envelope mailing service needs to be contacted before the annual contract renewal deadline date in order for SMMP to stop the envelope packet mailings to the 1,400 registered parish households who have not made any identifiable monetary contributions to the parish during the past 24 months. Fr. Paul sent a letter earlier in the summer to these parish households, along with information about automated ParishPay. The reduction in the overall number of envelope packet mailings should result in a significant cost savings to the parish, along with being more environmentally conscious. Neil also noted plans to eventually stop mailing envelope packets to the 176 parish households currently using automated ParishPay giving.

**Christian Worship (CWC): [No report received in advance].**

New CWC Representative Brian Pelz reported that the Commission will hold its kickoff meeting next month and that it will meet four times during the year.

A suggestion was made at tonight's meeting to investigate the use of the online volunteer sign-up system SignUpGenius, especially for more up-to-date and flexible Altar Server and Eucharistic Minister scheduling.

The Sunday Afternoon Mass will resume on 9/13/15 after its summer break and will start at 12:30 p.m. (replacing its previous 12:15 p.m. start).

**Christian Education (CEC): [CEC Ministry Reports for September 2015 was electronically sent in advance by Janene Parisi, a copy of which is shown hereto].**

According to Janene Parisi, CWC Representative, last week's catechist orientation kickoff meeting had gone very well, with attendees being very engaged with Tom Cordaro's talk. She also stated that the required catechist training through *Protecting God's Children* program, along with background checks, is "right on target." Youth Ministry Director Dan Lawler had also reported that the kickoff for freshmen and sophomore group leaders went well. Janene noted that three elementary and five jr. high catechists are still needed for 2015-16.

The list of Sr. Madelyn's very comprehensive adult formation program offerings are now published in the parish bulletin. These programs reflect the new Parish Theme.

The Mental Health Ministry is planning a Fall Event, with more information forthcoming soon. Sandy Renehan, ASCA [All Saints Catholic Academy] Principal, will retire at the end of the 2015-16 school year. Neil Gorman inquired about the trajectory of ASCA's enrollment since its opening in 2005 (with only five grades offered during its first year). Fr. Paul suggested that we contact Sandy Renehan for current enrollment figures to help determine if enrollment is staying flat, increasing, or decreasing.

The eleven CEC members are listed in the attached report. Janene requests nominations for new Commission members, especially to replace two male members who have recently left.

**Christian Service (CSC):** [*Christian Service Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council – September 1, 2015* was electronically sent in advance by Cabrina Attal, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Cabrina Attal, CSC Representative, reported that the Sharing Parish Committee is continuing its research to find a new sharing parish partner from within the Diocese. Our parish would like to enter into a vibrant new partnership, promoting good cultural exchange, rather than just providing financial assistance. SMMP's Sharing Parish Committee is currently having some preliminary meetings with St. Andrew Parish in Romeoville and will be hosting a meeting with their staff at SMMP soon. The Sharing Parish Committee is also requesting time on the Council's October meeting agenda in order to present their recommendations.

SMMP's Boy Scout Troop 107 is seeking ideas from the parish community for possible upcoming Eagle Scout projects.

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

- "Good meeting – good dialogue with new ideas."
- "I am very excited about the new Parish Theme."
- "Great to have new people on board."
- "Great work."
- "I'm glad to be back."
- "Good job, Neil, in leading this first meeting."
- "Thanks to all – what wonderful new group dynamics are emerging with this new group"
- "The Holy Spirit is at work"

**CLOSING:** Victoria Kosirog played a recorded song as a closing prayer. Following this, the meeting ended at 9:40 p.m.

***The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6th at St. Margaret Mary Parish, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room.***

*Opening/Closing Prayer – Neil Gorman  
Refreshments – Neil Gorman*

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury  
Recording Secretary

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**SAINT MARGARET MARY PARISH**

**ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes of Wednesday, July 15, 2015**

Members Present: Jeff Jameson, Chuck Marquis, Michael Prus, Bob Stezowski.

Members Absent: Tom Hill, Klaus Rummer, Sue Schroeder.

Also Attending: Neil Gorman.

**1. Opening Prayer:** Led by Mike Prus.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the April 29 meeting were approved “by acclamation”, without changes.

**3. Discussion/Decision Items:**

A. Parish Sign

Bob Stezowski reported on his study of repairing the current parish sign, following on the Commission’s request. The main beam shows clear signs of rotting, and there is a longitudinal crack in the beam. A new beam would cost about \$1700. Replacement of the beam would also require replacement of the concrete footing. The electrical conduit is rusted, and the light sensor is not attached. In cold weather, the florescent lights sometimes fail, so these fixtures are in need of replacement. Other electrical work may be needed.

The commission roughly calculated that the total of a short-term repair (anticipating replacement of the sign in a few years), including parts and labor, would be approximately

\$2500-\$3000. For a long-term repair, (anticipating keeping the sign indefinitely), would be approximately \$4000-\$5000. These calculations would need to be sharpened, and Bob will pursue this further. It was agreed that any possible replacement of the sign would not take place this year. It was also agreed to study the parish's financial capacity for the project; and to identify parish leaders and groups to be invited into discussion, regarding the value and purposes of a possible new sign.

#### B. HVAC Equipment

Jeff Jameson reported that he made a presentation regarding the Church air handler unit project to the Pastoral Council at its May 5 meeting, and the Council approved the project. The bid process was successful, as all three contractors responded to the Request for Proposal. Amber Mechanical was selected, with a contact amount of \$255,098, including an alternate bid to add a new humidifier. The contract was signed by Bishop Conlon in mid-June. On July 8, Amber and their subcontractors visited the church (and met with Jeff, Mike, and Bob) for additional field measurements, and to discuss implementation logistics. The major equipment was ordered the same day. Equipment delivery is expected in early October. The main work is targeted for the October 12 – October 23 period; heat and air conditioning in the worship area will not be available in the church during this period.

#### C. Scheduling future meetings

The commission agreed to meet again on Tuesday, September 29, at 7:30 PM.

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

A. Chuck Marquis: No report.

B. Bob Stezowski, Building Manager: Bob noted that our HVAC technician recommended replacement of compression contactors and unloaders for the Parish Center condensing unit compressor. This equipment has been ordered, and we await word on scheduling.

C. Sue Schroeder, Finance: 1) Absent.

D. Michael Prus, Business Manager: 1) Mike reported that Ziggy Owiesek, our maintenance custodian, was injured on the job in mid-June. He had surgery on his leg, and will be unable to return to work until sometime in August, at the earliest. Bob has been very dedicated, in working extra time to attend to the many summer maintenance tasks for the building. Worker's Compensation and other administrative issues are being managed appropriately. 2) The Budget process was completed, with submission of the budget to the diocese, on June 1.

E. Tom Hill, Chairperson & Building Committee: Absent.

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

G. Klaus Rummer: Absent.

**5. New Business:** 1) Neil Gorman reported that Gus Fischer is the new president of the Men's Club. 2) Neil noted that the parish picnic is on September 13.

**6. Evaluation:** None.

**7. Closing Prayer:** Led by Chuck Marquis.

*--Submitted by Mike Prus*

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## **CEC Ministry Reports for September 2015**

The ministries within the Christian Education Commission (CEC), which include Adult Education, Religious Education, Youth Ministry, All Saints Catholic Academy and Mental Health and Wellness, have officially kicked off their 2015-16 education programs for SMMP. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, Dan and Sue hosted a Catechist Orientation for approximately 75 Catechists in the R.E. and Youth Ministry programs. Tom Cordaro presented the new parish theme and calling, and several breakout sessions were offered for age-specific guidance. Tom gave a terrific presentation to inspire Catechists to share with the children their personal encounters with Jesus. Dan also introduced Becca Sair, our Notre Dame Echo apprentice. Becca led a wonderful breakout session on Relational Ministry.

### **Adult Education: Sr. Madelyn Gould**

The Adult Faith Formation programs were distributed in the mass bulletins the weekend of August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The program can also be found on the parish website, under the Education->Adult Education menu bars. Sister Madelyn has done a wonderful job of including the parish theme "Hearts on Fire" into her program offerings this year.

Bible Study: Sr. Marianne Race, CSJ- our Bible Study leader for 2015-16—will focus on the gospel of Luke with a special highlight on the Passion of Jesus and the role of Angels in Scripture. As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 23 people are signed up for the morning session, and 10 people are signed up for the evening session. Classes will begin on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Book Study: Deacon Ken will be leading a discussion on The God Patent by Ransom Stephens on September 13.

Business Breakfast: Louis Quetell, from Rejoice Lutheran in Geneva, will begin the business breakfast series on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Evening Enrichment: The Parish Convocation on September 23<sup>rd</sup> will kickoff the evening enrichment series.

Morning Enrichment: Fr. Paul will kick off the series on Sept 9<sup>th</sup> with a presentation on WHAT MAKES US CATHOLIC.

Small Faith Groups: Signup has begun, and a leader meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **PreK–Grade 5: Sue Davey**

Classes for the new school year begin Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. As of now, there are only three classes without a Catechist. Most of the classes now have a single Catechist, versus two co-Catechists.

Liturgy of the Word (LOW) for children will also kickoff at the Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> mass. JoAnn Jeffreys has agreed to coordinate this program again.

Catechetical Sunday is September 20<sup>th</sup>. 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 15<sup>th</sup>. A second workshop will be offered on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

During the last week of September we will begin communicating with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parents, including ASCA parents, regarding Reconciliation.

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

The Chosen 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade kickoff and first meeting was really good. We have 8 groups with 92 9<sup>th</sup> graders this year (approximately 84 sophomores). We also met with the freshman parents to encourage them to get involved in youth ministry and/or adult formation opportunities in our parish.

We had our Peer Ministry kickoff with about 30 juniors and seniors. We are looking forward to starting our Jr. High sessions after the Parish Picnic.

Becca, our Echo apprentice, is meeting with staff this week and will create a learning covenant that helps outline her role and goals.

We are creating a few new activities for Jr. High and High School this year but are still in the planning process.

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

A mental health event is being planned for October 21<sup>st</sup>. It will be a cross between raising awareness/reducing stigma and giving a Catholic perspective on dealing with mental illness. Deacon Tom Lambert, a member of the Chicago Archdiocesan Commission on Mental Illness, will be the speaker. This will be a co-sponsored event with our Catholic partners in the Interfaith Mental Health Coalition's West Suburban Cluster Group. Co-sponsoring the will help in defraying all costs associated with our speaker.

A 5-part series on Mental Health was published in the weekly mass bulletins this summer.

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

Classes began on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. This will be Dr. Renehan's last year as principal of ASCA. The interviewing process has begun.

**Christian Education Commission (CEC):**

Our current 11 Commission members are:

- Kim Cernek
- JoAnn Jeffreys
- Linda Griffin
- Kathy Morrison
- Bianca Durkin
- Julie Lomax (Adult Ed)
- Jen Curtin (Mental Health and Wellness)
- Anne-Marie Cronin (ASCA)
- Dan Lawler (Youth Ministry)
- Sue Davey (Religious Ed)
- Janene Parisi

It is important that we collectively have a multitude of perspectives on the education programs offered at SMMP. Having lost two gentlemen from our commission, Kevin Lynch and Bob Hanson, we are interested in nominations for 2-4 Commission members.

Our proposed schedule for CEC meetings for the 2015-2016 year are Mondays 5:30-7 p.m. on the following dates: Oct 19, Nov 16, Jan 11, Feb 8 (opt), March 14, April 18 and May 16. Parish Council members are welcome to join any of the CEC meetings.

*-- Submitted by Janene Parisi*

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**Christian Service Commission  
Monthly Report to Parish Council**

## September 1, 2015

**Bereavement:** Our Bereavement Committee will be coming together at our next meeting on Wed., Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. We have lots of cases to assign and we have 2 possible people interested in joining our Ministry. I have made contact and have asked them to take a look at what we do at this upcoming meeting in September. We will be planning the next several months our Remembrance Mass held in December.

**We would like to find a volunteer to help our ministry with clerical work** (Excel spreadsheets, etc.) They would not need to have any bereavement experience but could help us in getting what we need as a Ministry done. Please email Patti McGehee if you know of someone who may be interested ([patti@pattimcgehee.com](mailto:patti@pattimcgehee.com)).

**Blood Drive:** Our next Parish Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, October 17th from 7:30 - 11:30 AM in the Parish Center. The Knights of Columbus men have agreed to help us out again and we are grateful for their assistance.

Blood donations seem low for a parish of our size, with an average of 35 donors showing up at our twice-yearly drives. We are extremely appreciative of all of our donors, but **wonder if anyone might have suggestions as to how to increase our numbers?** For example, could we provide a pancake breakfast for our donors? Our committee is small, basically me and one or two volunteers who help at the drives. So any ideas would be welcome!

**Boy Scouts:** Boy Scouts and adults will be helping with trash duties at the parish picnic on Sept. 13th.

**We have many scouts who are approaching their Eagle rank and are looking for a project to complete.** If the church has any potential projects please provide the Boy Scout Troop with a list. Projects are typically one-time in nature, for example: installing a bench or small brick patio, fire pit, supply closet cleaning and organizing, painting, landscaping, sorting through many items, etc.

**Charitable Contributions:** No update

**Daybreak Transitional Housing:** We have a new guest – a baby boy born to our current family delivered prematurely last Wed.-6lbs.

**Funeral Ministry:** During the summer the committee supplied help for the Run/Walk for the Food Pantry. There were two funeral Luncheons. One was for a 16 year old that died and we served about 300. The cost to the parish was nothing as his grandfather gave a large donation to the parish which covered the cost of things bought plus. The other funeral served 75 people at a cost of less than \$100.

**Knights of Columbus:** The St Margaret Mary Knights of Columbus Council 16011 held summer monthly meetings at the parish on June 25, July 28, and August 25. In June, we sent a

team of Knights to assist at the Special Olympics Bowling event at the Naperville Brunswick Center. That same weekend, we had one new member join our council and two others advance degrees. We were also a part of the volunteer group hosting PADS in June and August at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lisle (summer PADS home), and plan on continuing when it returns to SMM in September.

Last month, the Knights assisted the Men's Club hosting the SMM Hospitality Sunday as they promoted the upcoming Parish Picnic. We also helped out at the Special Olympics Golf Outing in Bartlett in early August.

September events include the Parish Picnic and the Intellectually Disabled Tootsie Roll Drive in mid September. The ID Drive is an international fundraiser...the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic men's organization are the world's most supportive group of special needs children and adults, including Special Olympics.

**Men's Club:** We are finalizing plans for our annual picnic being held on September 13th. The volunteer sign-up has gone very well. We will be setting up on September 12th to be ready for the opening of the picnic at 12:00 pm on the 13th.

**Nursery:** Carrie Tilton completed the transition to new coordinator, Cailin Ramirez. No further update.

**PADS:** No update.

**Pastoral Care:** No update.

**Peace & Justice Advisory Working Group:** We have begun planning our two parish social mission weekends for the fall. The first weekend, Sept. 26/27 takes the theme "Embracing the Kingdom of Justice & Mercy" and will focus on work protections for home care workers (minimum wage, overtime, etc.) The second weekend, Oct. 10/11 takes the theme, "Making Room for the Kingdom of Compassion," and the focus will be on making the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit permanent for low-income families. **Earth Care:** Our committee is having a conversation about ways we can bring Pope Francis' environmental encyclical to the attention of our parishioners. **Christmas Giving Tree:** Our committee will begin meeting in late September. This year's Drop Off Saturday will be on December 19th.

**Pro-L.I.F.E. Committee:** Mary Ann attended the Respect Life Conference & Workshop sponsored by the Diocese. Part of the Conference was to promote the Project Rachel Ministry, which helps women who have had an abortion. Materials to help publicize Project Rachel were distributed. Respect Life Month (October) materials were also distributed.

Several parishioners attended the anti-Planned Parenthood demonstration in Aurora on August 22. They were protesting Planned Parenthood's selling body parts from aborted babies. About 1,500 people participated in the demonstration.

The National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children will be Saturday, Sept 12. A Memorial service will be held at 1:00 pm at Resurrection Cemetery in Romeoville.

**St. Vincent de Paul:** No update.

**September Club:** To celebrate Father's Day on Wednesday, June 3, 2015, 25 members enjoyed London Broil & chicken at Walker's Charhouse. All men attending were presented with a lottery ticket. Members were asked to remember those who are ill in their prayers. June birthdays and anniversaries were recognized.

On Wednesday afternoon July 8, 2015, 33 members and guests gathered in the parish center for a catered summer picnic. Father Paul led us in prayer. July birthdays and anniversaries were recognized and all present were asked to remember those who are ill in their prayers.

On Wednesday afternoon August 5, 2015, 33 members gathered in the parish center for a an ice cream social & desserts. Father Tom led us in prayer. August birthdays and anniversaries were recognized and all present were asked to remember those who are ill in their prayers

September meeting will be a pot luck. Look for details in the bulletin.

**Sharing Parish:** The Garage Sale held on June 26-27 raised close to \$10,000 for the Scholarship Fund for students at three Catholic Grammar Schools in Aurora. There were no expenses this year: all advertising was no cost; all food for volunteers was donated; and the drivers of the furniture pick-up vehicles refused compensation for gasoline. Also, volunteers made the effort to secure additional funds by successfully listing items on Craig's List and by selling things to Play It Again Sports and Once Upon A Child that St. Vincent de Paul and Wayside Cross Mission would not have wanted. Besides those two Charities, other recipients of donations included The Sharing Connection, the Re-Store, the SMMP Teen Center, and Goodwill.

After meeting in May with Jorge Rivera, Diocesan Director of Hispanic Ministry and Ethnic Ministries, and listening to his suggestions regarding choosing a parish in the Joliet Diocese as a Sharing Partner, the Committee decided to begin the search process by asking if people from **St. Andrew Parish in Romeoville** would like to meet with us to discuss interests and possibilities. That meeting took place at St. Andrew on July 20 and generated positive excitement on both sides. They seem to understand what we are about as expressed in an email from one of the St. Andrew deacons: "Thanks for choosing the parish of St. Andrew to walk together and learn from each other in the name of Christ." We are looking forward to meeting again at SMMP on September 29.

More of the St. Andrew ministry leaders are coming, and we have invited all the SMMP staff. We may not have reached a decision by the October PC meeting, but **when we are ready to submit a proposal, we would like the Sharing Parish Committee to attend the PC meeting for discussion and any questions.**

Tamale orders were delivered on July 12 and August 30.

-- *Submitted by Cabrina Attal*

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