

**St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL**  
**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**October 6, 2015**

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

Council President Mike Newell opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room, with Neil Gorman leading the opening prayer and Scripture reading.

Mike noted that Rebecca (Becca) Siar, ECHO Apprentice, was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Becca is beginning her two-year graduate service-learning internship program in faith formation at SMMP, through the University of Notre Dame. As her mentor at SMMP, Dan Lawler (Director of Youth Ministry) requested that Council keep him informed about any future Council- and parish-related tasks which might involve Becca.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2015 MEETING MINUTES:**

**Neil Gorman motioned to approve the meeting minutes from September 1, 2015, with Carl Van Dril seconding, and the Council approving these.** The minutes, along with Commission reports, will now be posted onto the Council's online web page.

**CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

**Alzheimer's Support Group:** As a follow-up to Linda Tomasello's presentation at last month's Council meeting with a plan to start an Alzheimer's Support Group at SMMP, Mike Newell shared the additional information requested by Council as gathered by Linda during this past month. Although Linda was unable to attend tonight's meeting, she and Mike had recently communicated by multiple e-mail notes about this additional information.

1. According to Mike Prus, SMMP Business Manager, the Diocese does not require a certificate of insurance by the Alzheimer's Association for its support group meetings to be held at SMMP.
2. Pending Council's approval, there is available room space at SMMP for the support group to meet on the third Tuesday of each month in Room 11 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.
3. Although the Alzheimer's Association advances research in its quest to end Alzheimer's and dementia, it does not provide any contributions to Planned Parenthood for embryonic stem cell research.

According to Mike Newell, Fr. Paul has no issues with an Alzheimer's Support Group holding regular monthly meetings at SMMP.

**Don Wenig motioned to approve SMMP being a host site for Alzheimer's support group meetings, with Neil Gorman seconding, and Council approving.** SMMP will enter into an one-year contractual agreement with the Alzheimer's Association as a support group host site for monthly meetings and will adhere to the Alzheimer's Association's requirements for this.

Mike Newell will inform Linda Tomasello that Council has approved SMMP's being a host site for an Alzheimer's Support Group. As its initial facilitator, Linda had indicated that she would like to hold the first support group meeting at SMMP on 11/17/15. Although support group meeting information will be included in the parish bulletin, meeting information will also be made available to the general community as posted on the Alzheimer's Association website. The meetings will be held in Room 11 at SMMP on the third Tuesday of each month, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Parish Convocation (9/23/15) – Follow-Up and Debriefing:** On 9/23/15, the parish gathered together in convocation, along with the Parish Leadership Community. The Convocation goals included:

- To introduce the new two-year parish theme (*Hearts on Fire!*) and calling (*Come Encounter Jesus, Embrace His Kingdom*) and to explain the relationship to the previous two-year parish theme;
- To describe how the Parish Leadership Community discerned the new parish theme and calling;
- To invite parishioners to imagine how the parish might grow as a result of the new parish theme and calling.

The links to the three Convocation presentations, which addressed these three goals, are now up on the parish web site.

Although this year's Convocation attendance was lower than that for the first Convocation held two years ago, it was felt that the 2015 Convocation was a rich event with good energy. Parishioner attendees appeared to be well engaged with the meeting's content, and much interest in and connection to the new parish theme were observed. As this year's attendees were more randomly assigned to their small discussion groups (rather than as assigned by ministry groups at the previous Convocation), the small-group discussions remained focused on the main goals and parish theme, with good dialogue and some seamless connections noted.

Tom Cordaro thanked those on Council who had served as small-group facilitators and note takers. He also expressed appreciation for how quickly these notes were submitted to him after the Convocation. Each member of the Parish Leadership had subsequently received a compilation of the various small-groups' notes. Council members had reviewed these prior to tonight's meeting, with instructions to try to identify any common themes noted in the reports and to note any lessons or questions needing further review by the Parish Leadership Community. Some common threads noted included: interest in

moving into action; questions about evangelization; and further interest in understanding the meaning of embracing the Kingdom of God. Tom will write up a summary for the parish bulletin and the parish web site about the recent Convocation, and will include photos and web links.

There was some additional discussion about evaluating the response to the parish goals and calling by May 2016. Council especially complimented Cabrina Attal on her work as principle author of "Imagine Our Parish Transformed," as presented by her at the 9/23/15 Convocation.

**Small Groups:** According to Sr. Madelyn, approximately one hundred parishioners are registered for Small Groups, some of which will begin to hold their first of four meetings later this week. Additional registrations are still being accepted this week. The goals of these small groups include: to more fully engage participants in a better understanding of the new parish theme and mission; and to promote greater personal commitment to these. Tom posed further challenges about what happens after the small groups complete their meetings, along with how to continue efforts and momentum during the next two years. Additional small group participation is also sought with young parents and young adult parishioners.

#### **AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

**Communications Committee:** Neil Gorman noted that both he and Mike Newell had served on the Ad Hoc Communications Committee, dating back to three years ago. Neil has recently restarted this committee, with Victoria Kosirog, Don Wenig, Carl Van Dril, and him meeting last Saturday. Seeing the continued importance of fostering excellent communication for SMMP on an ongoing basis within the parish and community, the group suggests that this committee move from having Ad Hoc status to becoming an established parish committee with its own charter and by-laws. They will continue to work toward developing a charter proposal.

Neil, along with Becca Siar, had recently attended an all-day session on faith formation through the Diocese. According to Neil, there is much information on communication strategies available for parishes' use through the Diocese, with Tom Quindlen being a key person for SMMP to contact at the Diocesan offices about this. Council expressed interest in contacting him.

Victoria is working on putting together a new parish ministry handbook, which will include ministry descriptions, with corresponding contact information and names of resource people. Not only is she trying to update the parish ministry handbook from 2010, but she is also trying to create a more comprehensive one. She noted that it would be very helpful to simply incorporate the name of a specific ministry in its e-mail address, e.g. [weddings@smmp.com](mailto:weddings@smmp.com) and [funerals@smmp.com](mailto:funerals@smmp.com), rather than using individuals' names for e-contact information. Victoria would also like to make the updated parish ministry handbook available at a movable information kiosk or cart. The Ad Hoc Communications Committee is continuing its search for such a kiosk or cart,

which could be staffed before and after the Sunday Masses. Victoria would also like to see a different ministry featured at SMMP on a once weekly basis. It was also noted that there are some "When You Need Help" booklets available, which need updating but pertain to some key topics.

Victoria updated Council about a "Welcome to the Neighborhood" information postcard about SMMP, which Sr. Madelyn had helped design. This was especially created for a direct mailing to residents of the new Arbor Trails subdivision in Lisle through the postal system's *Every Door Direct* mailing. This direct mailing has not yet been done to the 162 planned houses within this subdivision, due the post office's not being able to cover this area yet with this direct mail campaign. Nevertheless, it is hoped that this mailing can be completed soon. Meanwhile, Neil shared a well-designed information postcard which he had recently received from another local Christian church. He noted the strong information value contained in such a postcard mailing and suggested that Council remember to retain, examine, and turn in to the Communications group any similar postcard mailings received from other area churches. According to Neil, 1,400 non-contributing families were recently removed from SMMP's contribution envelope packet mailings. It might be possible to have a future postcard direct mailing done about SMMP to a large area in the community, too, using some of the cost savings from a reduced amount of contribution envelope mailings. The current postcard direct mailing cost is thirty-five cents per piece.

According to recent information obtained by Neil from IDOT [IL Department of Transportation], approximately 44,000 vehicles pass by SMMP on a daily basis. Especially due to its very heavily trafficked location (more than that of any other Catholic church in Naperville-Lisle), SMMP's outdoor banner signage is an extremely important communication tool. The current budget allows for the printing of eight new banners per year at \$85 per banner – the current plan is to display ten different banners per year along the designated area on Naper Boulevard. The ongoing challenge is to make each banner be as pertinent, inviting, and effective as possible.

Social media continues to be a very important communication tool. Victoria, along with Becca Siar, are working on maintaining the parish's Facebook page. There is a continued need for good photos to be used on Facebook as well as on the parish web pages. It was suggested that Council refer to the website and e-concepts used by St. Nicholas Parish in Aurora (a very poor parish with a wonderfully viable website). Continued efforts should also be made to make SMMP's website and parish bulletin more cohesive.

Following this, Council took a break from 8:05-8:18 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Neil Gorman.

### **COMMISSION REPORTS:**

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

CEC Representative Janene Parisi reported that “lots of good things are happening,” as many programs are running for 2015-16. She has recently started attending Bible study, led by Sr. Marianne Race, CSJ, and is pleased with it. Janene noted that a two-page feature article on SMMP’s retreats and spiritual programs will be appearing in the October diocesan issue of *Christ Is Our Hope*.

The inter parish marriage enrichment day will be held on 10/17/15 at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, with Ted Cunningham as the presenter. Janene and her mother had attended a worship service featuring Ted Cunningham earlier this year in Branson, MO, and thought that he was a very dynamic speaker.

The annual Harvest Sunday food drive will be held on 11/01/15, with distribution of informational door hangers on 10/25/15.

The Mental Health and Wellness Ministry is planning an active year ahead, including an evening session on 10/21/15, featuring Deacon Tom Lambert.

Becca, our Echo Apprentice, is actively involved in Religious Education and Youth Ministry. As Dr. Sandy Renehan completes her final year as Principal of ASCA (All Saints Catholic Academy), the three pastors of ASCA’s founding parishes are participating in the search process for a new principal.

**Administration: No report was submitted in advance, due to the Commission’s not meeting in September.**

According to Neil Gorman, acting as Liaison to the Administration Commission, the quarterly Administration meeting on 9/29/15 was canceled due to another on-site meeting held at SMMP with representatives from St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Romeoville. SMMP is considering the possibility of becoming a Sharing Parish with St. Andrew Parish.

Neil noted communication delays in reporting parish financials, with the parish financial information on the parish web page being approximately one year old (from FY 2013/14), along with there being a 6-month delay in reporting the 9-month financials in a recent parish bulletin. In general, Neil noted that the parish weekly financials are 60 days behind. Meanwhile, the financial report for FY 2014/15 will appear in next week’s parish bulletin, which Council members should retain for continued reference throughout this year ahead.

Collections and the use of automated giving through ParishPay have increased since Phil Samuels and Neil had made a presentation this past spring at all of the Sunday Masses on a designated weekend. Neil underlined the need to speak to the parish again about increasing contributions and using ParishPay, especially in light of anticipated upcoming repair and replacement needs as the parish facilities age.

**Christian Worship (CWC): [*Christian Worship Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council, October 2015* was electronically submitted in advance by Brian Pelz, a copy of which is shown hereto].**

CWC Representative Brian Pelz reported that the Worship Commission will be reviewing and updating its by-laws, including amending the number of scheduled meetings per year.

Brian briefly reviewed how the Eucharistic Minister, Altar Server, Lector, and Greeter scheduling is currently done, this frequently being prepared four-five months in advance. He will pursue recommending the use of an online volunteer sign-up system [such as SignUp Genius] for more updated and flexible scheduling needs. He also noted that, with improved tracking of Altar Server attendance, roughly twenty-five per cent of those scheduled are actually showing up for their scheduled assignments. Meanwhile, there is an increased number of teens serving as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Choir members.

Brian hopes to meet with the new Art & Environment Director Courtney Murtaugh within the next couple of weeks.

CPR and AED emergency training will be offered again to Greeters.

Tom Zakosek reported that Sandy Neuenkirchen will be serving as Baptism Coordinator. Increased coordination and communication are needed between the Baptism Assistants, Coordinators, and participants to prevent any future disorganized Baptismal services.

There is a plan in place to remove a couple rows of pews from the front center aisle and to replace them with chairs. The chairs can be removed during a funeral in order to provide more room for a casket. The Men's Club has volunteered to fund the effort.

Council discussed Fr. Paul's 40<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary Mass celebration. This is scheduled on 11/22/15 at the 12:30 p.m. Mass, which is currently also scheduled as a teen Mass. It was noted that Council has included \$1,000-2,000 in the budget for Fr. Paul's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

**Christian Service (CSC): [*Christian Service Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council, October 6, 2015* was electronically sent in advance by Cabrina Attal, a copy of which is shown hereto].**

In CSC Representative Cabrina Attal's absence, there were no additional questions posed to Tom Cordaro about Christian Service.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (1/16/16):** Neil Gorman sent an e-mail with links to documents needed by the new Appreciation Dinner co-chairs Don Wenig and Carl Van Dril. Victoria Kosirog stated her interest in replacing the tablecloth linens, to be specifically used for the Appreciation Dinner.

**Nominations:** Victoria reminded Council that it was every member's job to recruit and nominate new At-Large Representatives during the 2015-16 year. Suggested names can be submitted by e-mail to Nominations Co-Chairs Tom Zakosek and Victoria Kosirog.

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

- "Great meeting – well run."
- "What a blessed accomplishment the Convocation was, encouraging ways to find Christ in our lives."
- "Exciting meeting."
- "We're making progress."
- "Am enjoying an epiphany with Baptism programs."
- "Good meeting."
- "I'm excited about the Communication group."
- "Good energy."
- "Thanks to the Communication group – they have a big task ahead."

**CLOSING:** Neil Gorman led tonight's closing prayer. Following this, the meeting ended at 8:50 p.m.

***The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Margaret Mary Parish, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room.***

*Opening/Closing Prayer (November) – Don Wenig*  
*Refreshments (November) – Don Wenig*

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury  
Recording Secretary

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## **CEC Ministry Reports For October 2015**

**Adult Education: Sr. Madelyn Gould**

BIBLE STUDY- Sr. Marianne Race, CSJ- our Bible Study leader for 2015-16—is focusing on the gospel of Luke with a special highlight on the Passion of Jesus and the role of Angels in Scripture. Sixty people are registered.

BOOK STUDY – Six were out to discuss **The God Patent** by R. Stephens with Ken Miles being the facilitator. The October book is **Where Do I Belong** by Tony Mankus. Tony is a parishioner and a member of the book group. The November reading will be **Laudato Si**, the latest encyclical.

**BUSINESS BREAKFAST:** Pastor Lou Quetel provided an animated presentation on the parable “The Vineyard” (Mt. 20:1-16). Pastor Deb Roberts will offer our October presentation on “The Persistent Widow” (Lk. 18:1-8)

**EVENING ENRICHMENT:** The parish convocation provided the adult education session for the month of September. Approximately 100 were in attendance. There are also about 100 registered for the small faith sharing groups focusing on the parish missional directives. Tom Cordaro and I wrote the materials and offered a training session for group leaders on Sept 16<sup>th</sup>.

The October evening session will be sponsored by the Mental Health Committee. The October 21 event is titled “Faith, Church, and Mental Illness: Hope and Healing.” Speaker: Deacon Tom Lambert.

**MORNING ENRICHMENT:** Fr. Paul provided the kick-off session on September 9<sup>th</sup> with his presentation on WHAT MAKES US CATHOLIC. Thirty five were in attendance. Fr. Pat McDevitt will provide the October 14, 2015 presentation on SEEKING A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

**RETREATS:** At present, both men and women are recruiting for their CRHP retreat weekends. The men presently have 8 registered. We are grateful that Fr. Paul will endorse the CRHP program at the Oct. 3/4 Masses. Hopefully, many will be moved to register.

Thirteen are presently registered for the Day of Quiet to be held at St. Procopius Abbey on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. Since this is the feast day of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, the reflection materials will focus on Margaret Mary as a person and as a church.

Our retreat program is to be featured in the October CHRIST IS OUR HOPE diocesan magazine.

Publicity has begun for the Parish Mission. Since the Mission will focus on the spiritual messages of the Wizard of Oz, we are considering a ‘movie night’ the week before the Mission. The movie: The Wizard of Oz.

**RCIA:** We have three (2 women; 1 man) who are presently studying the Catholic faith. We meet for the 9:00 Mass and have our sessions after the dismissal rite.

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:** The fifth Ignatian retreat will end on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are taking a break and will not be offering the Ignatian Exercises during 2016-2017. On Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> we will begin a 6 mo. series titled “Adventures in Contemplation.” It is an opportunity for our ‘Ignatian graduates’ to enter more deeply into contemplation. Al Gustafson is taking the leadership on “Adventure in Contemplation.”

TABLE FOR TWO: Rev. Michael Bradburn from Samaritan Interfaith Counseling is scheduled to give the Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> presentation on “Growing Together Emotionally and Spiritually.” It is uncertain whether we will have enough registrations to carry this off. Possible low registration might be due to the fact that IMET (interparish marriage enrichment) is offering a marriage enrichment session on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>. Formerly SMMP offered a Table For Two both in October and April. A few years ago we cancelled the April event since IMET was offering their marriage enrichment program then. Now, IMET decided to have their event in October, the same month that SMMP offers their event. Terry Taylor is doing a valiant job of making lemonade from the lemons! He is stressing in the publicity materials that couples have a choice....come to a one evening presentation or an all day presentation.

#### OTHER:

I attended a meeting that focused on the possibility of SMM adopting St. Andrew Parish as a Sharing Parish. At present I do not see that the two parishes have a lot in common regarding Adult Education. However, a speaker from St. Andrews will come to SMM on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> to speak about Our Lady of Guadalupe. SMMP is invited to St. Andrews for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>). At this point, these are social events. There is no commitment from either parish regarding an ongoing relationship.

The staff engaged in a two session process facilitated by Peggy Leyden. Purpose: to articulate our staff culture. We have produced a written statement regarding our staff culture, but the group wants to review it before publicizing the final copy.

#### **PreK–Grade 5: Sue Davey**

On Saturday, October 3rd we had a special blessing of pets in celebration of the Feast St. Francis of Assisi. Approximately twenty families attended.

First Reconciliation information was mailed to parents. The first parent only meeting is Tuesday, October 20th. The retreat is scheduled for Saturday, November 7th.

Invitations have gone out to First Communicants parents inviting them to attend one of the Sacramental Parent Retreats. We are offering two this year. October 18<sup>th</sup> and January 10<sup>th</sup>.

We are participating in Square 1Art fundraiser. Children complete an art project which is then reproduced as a free set of stickers. Parents are then given the opportunity to purchase other items displaying the art work. St. Margaret Mary Religious Ed. program receives a percentage of the sales.

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

We started our year of youth ministry with our junior high this month. We added a session for Tuesday afternoon to help accommodate more family's schedules. We are

looking at adding a few more activities throughout the year including grade level retreats and social events. We are continuing to have issues with attendance and will need to address that with CEC.

We have begun planning for our Freshmen Retreat in November with our juniors and seniors from Peer Ministry. Our focus this year is on the Emmaus Story to help them "Encounter Jesus" through witness talks, discussion, and updated prayer experiences. We will be inviting parents to join with some of our prayer this year also.

We will have our first parent sacrament retreat on October 18th for all 1st Communion and Confirmation (Sophomore) parents.

We are preparing for our annual Harvest Sunday food drive. Our high school groups will be distributing door hangers on October 25th and will be picking up the food on November 1st. We have also invited junior high youth and families to help us sort and pack the donations to be distributed to Loaves and Fishes and the Marie Wilkinson food pantries. Last year, we collected almost 18,000 pounds and we are hoping to greatly increase that number this year!

Becca, our Echo Apprentice, has been actively involved in RE and Youth Ministry and will begin visioning for some other catechetical opportunities including Young Adult and Social Media Outreach ministries.

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

**BULLETINS:** We have continued to publish a series of five articles explaining the National Catholic Partnership for Disabilities framework for addressing Mental Health. This Sunday will conclude those articles. We have also included local events sponsored by NAMI to help our parish family find appropriate resources. We will plan our next series of articles at our bi monthly meeting today.

**EVENING ENRICHMENT:** We are working in partnership with Sr. Madelyn's Evening Enrichment and the West Suburban Cluster Group for the Interfaith Mental Health Coalition to offer an evening session on October 21. Registration materials are being published in the bulletin, are listed on the home page of the SMMP website and offer written or online registration. We are hoping to put out an all-parish email to encourage people to attend.

The October evening session will be sponsored by the Mental Health Committee. The October 21 event is titled "Faith, Church, and Mental Illness: Hope and Healing." Speaker: Deacon Tom Lambert.

**WEBSITE:** We are happy to announce that the Mental Health and Wellness Ministry is now on the SMMP website! Please check out our new page under the "Education" tab. Many thanks to Andrea Schierer and Mike Prus for their work on this initiative!

DEMENTIA/ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT SUB-COMMITTEE: Currently putting together a sub-committee of parish members all interested in expanding our parish support for those living with a loved one that is suffering from cognitive impairments such as dementia and Alzheimer's. The sub-committee will be meeting 10/20 at 7:30 pm.

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

Dr. Sandy Renehan, principal of All Saints Catholic Academy, is retiring this June, after completing her 11th year as principal of the school. The search is being led by Rev. Don McLaughlin, pastor of St. Thomas, Rev. Paul Hottinger, pastor of St. Margaret Mary and Rev. Richard Smith, pastor of St. Elizabeth Seton, in conjunction with Mrs. Karen Udell, Assistant Superintendent, Leadership and Personnel from the Catholic Schools Office in the Diocese of Joliet. Additionally, a search committee comprised of representatives of the All Saints Board of Trustees, School Board, and parent representatives will be a part of the process.

In an effort to get input from many stakeholders, Mrs. Udell and Rev. McLaughlin hosted focus groups for school families, faculty and staff, board of trustees, school board members and junior high students. Additionally, families are invited to participate in an online survey to provide input.

The committee will conduct interviews this fall/winter with the goal to hire a new principal in the spring. Ultimately, the three pastors, mentioned above, will hire the new principal.

*-- Submitted by Janene Parisi*

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**Christian Worship Commission**

**Monthly Report to Parish Council**

**October 2015**

CWC Meeting held on September 17, 2015.

- Review and amend CWC by-laws. e.g. – meeting 10 times a year; Membership pastor & associate pastor, at large members
- Discuss how EM, Altar Server, Lector and Greeter schedule are established and communicated
  - EM's (120) schedule 4-5 months in advance twice a year; email Sue; Use Parish Data System (PDS v7.1E build 711); Email link to membership.

- Altar Servers (50) schedule 4-5 months in advance twice a year; email Sue; Use Parish Data System (PDS v7.1E build 711); Email link to membership. Challenges: altar servers are young; some don't have email addresses; Membership replies with changes or updates after the schedule is created.
- Lectors (59) – schedule 4-5 months in advance twice a year; manually created by Terry in Excel; Posted on web using Google docs; all members have update access (consistency?); Link sent to members lectors@smmp.com
- Greeters (70) – schedule 4-5 months in advance twice a year; Send an email to membership with the schedule.
- Next CWC meeting October 15 at 6:00 PM

**Altar Servers:** Six new altar servers signed up in the spring. There is a need to improve communication and determine whether or not altar servers are receiving the schedules. Improvements can be made in communicating appreciation to the altar servers. Better tracking method is required to determine which altar servers are showing up for their assigned masses. Approximately less than 25% are showing up. Fr. Paul has confirmed that altar servers can be assigned to weddings. There will be one more training session before year end.

**Art & Environment:** No report.

**Baptism Assistants:** The coordination between the people that do the baptism classes and the Baptism Assistants coordinator (the person that schedules the baptisms) can be improved. Sometimes people don't know where to sit; don't know the length of the ceremony (people leave early); photographs taken during the mass. Tom Zakosek will initiate communication with the baptism class training coordinators to improve the process.

**Bread Bakers:** No report.

**Eucharistic Ministers:** All parishioners who indicated an interest in being trained as an EM on the form from the bulletin were contacted via email. Deacon Ken and Barb offered several training dates. So far, 5 new EMs

were trained at the end of August, and 5 more in September. There will be another training session offered in November.

**Greeters:** Looking into having another training session on CPR and AED.

If there are not enough Greeters who sign up, the class may be opened to parishioners.

**Lectors:** Two new lectors signed up. There are currently about 20 teens. Gift Bearer sub-ministry: There is room for improvement in this process. Should there be a separate coordinator? Better ministry coordination and parish participation is required. Can there be a link to RE classes? Involve parish council families? CHIRP group participation? (talk to Sr. Madelyn)

**Linen Launderers:** No report.

**Liturgy Development:** Meeting was held to discuss the parish theme kickoff. There is a plan in place to remove a couple rows of pews from the front center aisle and replace them with chairs. The chairs can be removed during funerals in order to provide more room for a casket. The Men's Club has volunteered to fund the effort. Fr. Paul 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary mass celebration discussed – Nov 22 at 12:30 PM.

**Music:** No report.

**Sacristans:** One parishioner expressed interest in being trained as a sacristan. She was contacted and she has already gone through initial training for the 10:45 Mass. She will shadow other sacristans until she is comfortable with working on her own. Also, Father Paul has been helping to identify potential “clean-up only” sacristans for the 12:30 Mass. Currently, we are having trouble covering that Mass. The deacons have been asked to clean-up if there is no sacristan available. (hopefully this will be a rare occurrence). Issue with bread left in the cabinet. Will contact Mary Oliphant for details and improve the process.

*-- Submitted by Brian Pelz*

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## **Christian Service Commission**

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

**October 6, 2015**

**Bereavement:** We had 8 new cases assigned and we have a new Bereavement Minister ... welcome Sue Shafer!

**Blood Drive:** Next Blood Drive is October 17. The Knights of Columbus will assist.

**Boy Scouts:** No update

**Charitable Contributions:** The first Charitable Contributions Committee meeting of the 2015 – 2016 year was held on Tuesday September 8, 2015. The current Committee is comprised of seven members, with a fiscal year budget of \$42,150, the same amount as in the prior fiscal year. Officers were selected, naming Ann Schwartz as Chair and John Rossi Secretary. Jim Kaduk will continue to provide the lead regarding review and analysis of applicant financial reports/audits. Joe Straka will serve as the Charitable Contributions Committee representative on the Christian Service Commission. Ann reviewed the 2015 – 2016 Committee budget (same as last year), Committee procedures for the current year, and requests to be considered.

In light of a limited Committee budget, the decision was made to cap Committee fiscal year granted amounts to any one organization at no more than \$2,500.00. The same organization would be eligible for another application during the parish next fiscal year, but not the current one in which they were funded. Nine organizations were assigned to various Committee members for review visits and future action.

*With seven current members, the Committee is in need of additional membership (ideally another 3 to 5 people).*

The limited budget is clearly an issue since the number of requests as well as the financial amount of the requests significantly exceeds the budget resources assigned to the Committee.

**Daybreak Transitional Housing:** Daybreak's guest is adjusting to her new job as Mother of two, a three year old and a two month old. She is also job hunting. A busy schedule for all of us.

**Funeral Ministry:** No news to report. One luncheon was requested but there was not enough time to meet the request.

**Knights of Columbus:** The St Margaret Mary Knights of Columbus Council 16011 was part of an international "Tootsie Roll" Drive to support children and adults with intellectual disabilities. For the last 4 weekends, we have been at street intersections (week 1), store fronts (weeks 2&3) and at SMM masses (week 4). We and the other four Naperville councils will raise over \$50,000 toward supporting Special Olympics and other events for those in need.

Our monthly meeting was held in the Upper Room on September 24<sup>th</sup>. In addition to firm up our volunteer lists for the ID Drive, we are also planning a membership drive as part of hospitality Sunday at SMM on October 11 and taking a lead role in conducting the Blood Drive on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Men's Club:** Sixty members attended our September meeting. After the meeting, 18 members participated in spirited competition and fellowship at the 2015 SMMP Men's Club Bag Tournament. Larry Riebold and Rick Eckstein defeated Tom Rurik and Dan Patt in the finals to bring home the victory. A great time was had by all!

On Oct.9th the Men's Club will hold their fall golf outing. After golf, a dinner will be held in the Church Hall. Following dinner we will hold a card night. We will again assist Loaves and Fishes in distributing food to those in need. We are finalizing plans for our Fall Dinner to be held on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Additional information on these events is in the bulletin.

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

9/6/15      9am: 1 kids, 1 family; 10:45 am: 1 kid, 1 family

9/13/15 9am: 3 kids, 3 families; 10:45am: 0 kids, 0 families

9/20/15 9am: 5 kids, 4 families; 10:45am: 3 kids, 2 families

9/27/15 9am: 5 kids, 3 families; 10:45am: 4 kids, 3 families

We are still looking for a couple of part time babysitters to cover the weeks that Cia and Ashley will be out. I was going to wait for everyone to get back into the swing of school and then run an ad again. Other than that we have had a lot of new faces the past couple of weeks. Things have been running very well!

**Pastoral Care:** No update

**Peace & Justice Advisory Working Group:** Our first parish social mission weekend was well received. We collected 215 signed postcards from parishioners directed to Governor Rauner urging him to bring Illinois into compliance with the new Department of Labor regulations protecting the rights of home care providers. Our next parish social mission weekend will be October 10/11. The theme will be, "Making Room for the Kingdom of Compassion." Our advocacy will be directed to our U.S. senators and representatives asking them to support the President's decision to increase the number of refugees into the U.S. and to provide adequate funding to insure they are processed quickly and thoroughly and that they be given the resources they need to become contributing members of our society.

**Pro-L.I.F.E. Committee:** Please continue to support 40 Days for Life by your prayers and witnessing. Vigil sites are at Access Clinic in Downers Grove 1700 75th St. and Planned Parenthood in Aurora.

**St. Vincent de Paul:** We helped several families this month with rent assistance and utilities. Pattern continues: people fall behind in bills because of fewer hours worked, or lose a job and fall behind while in the job search. Appears to be more single women struggling to find jobs that pay enough to keep up. Check book balance ok, but has gradually been falling the last few months

**September Club:** On Wednesday afternoon August 2, 2015, 33 members

gathered in the parish center for a potluck lunch with delicious dishes & desserts provided by members. We began with a prayer in memory of recently deceased member, Jean Dolan. September birthdays and anniversaries were recognized and all were asked to remember those who are ill in their prayers.

The October meeting will be a memorial Mass for deceased members followed by dinner. Look for details in the bulletin.

**Sharing Parish:** Another sale and a donation brought the final Garage Sale profits to exactly \$10,000. Checks totaling \$4500.00 are being sent out to three Catholic grammar schools in Aurora for first semester tuition assistance for seven students in five families.

We are continuing to explore the possibility of being Sharing Parishes with St. Andrew in Romeoville. At our meeting on September 29 at SMMP, we decided to share an activity to become better acquainted. We are all invited to St. Andrew to celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday, December 12. This is actually the ninth day of the novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas, and they will be holding prayer services on the previous eight evenings. There will be a play portraying the story at 6 pm and a short Mexican folkloric dance program. Mass will be at 7 pm followed by refreshments (including tamales).

To tell our parishioners the story, and especially the symbolism of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, someone from St. Andrew will make a presentation at SMMP on Monday, November 30, from 7 to 8 pm.

*-- Submitted by Cabrina Attal*

