

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

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

**Members Absent:** Tom Zakosek

Council President Mike Newell opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center, with Carl Van Dril leading the opening prayer.

Due to Fr. Paul's participation in First Reconciliation, Council was notified in advance about his anticipated late arrival at tonight's meeting. Also due to First Reconciliation, the meeting location was changed in advance from the Upper Room to the Parish Center.

**APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2015 MEETING MINUTES:**

**Neil Gorman motioned to approve the meeting minutes from November 3, 2015, with Cabrina Attal seconding, and the Council approving these.** The minutes, along with Commission reports, will now be posted onto the Council's online web page.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Fr. Paul's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (11/22/15):** Mike Newell expressed special thanks to the main organizers of Fr. Paul's 40<sup>th</sup> Ordination Celebration Reception (held at SMMP on 11/22/15), especially to Joan Noonan, Barb Zdon, Cabrina Attal, and Victoria Kosirog. He likewise thanked Council for their help with set-up and clean-up for this event. Mike's thanks also extended to numerous others who helped planned Fr. Paul's well-attended special liturgy, along with the two combined choirs and musicians who participated in this. According to Fr. Paul, the liturgy and reception were very meaningful to him. Next Sunday's parish bulletin will include a photo page from Fr. Paul's Anniversary Mass and Reception.

Mike noted that the reception came in well below budget, Joan Noonan is still encouraged to submit her receipts for this.

**Mental Health Ministry:** Neil Gorman and Fr. Paul have not yet talked with Deacon Joe Ferrari to ask about his willingness to become the Mental Health's staff sponsor and liaison to Council. If Deacon Joe accepts this sponsorship, his guidance would be requested in helping the Mental Health Ministry move toward becoming a parish service ministry.

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE :** Jessica Schoder, Pastoral Council Youth Representative and Senior Peer Ministry Leader, reported on her involvement with Peer

Ministry. She, along with the other Peer Leaders, had planned and helped lead the recent Freshmen Retreat and are currently planning for the upcoming Sophomore Retreat (these retreats being an integral preparatory requirement for SMMP's Confirmation Program). The Peer Ministry Leaders meet on Mondays from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at SMMP. According to Jessica, approximately 20 Peer Leaders regularly attend these weekly meetings, along there are around 70 high school juniors and seniors serving as Peer Ministry Leaders.

Only 10 of the original 30 registered Peer Ministers, along with 5 adults, recently attended the Peer Ministry Retreat held at Dixon Valley Retreat Center – some of the attendance problems were due to students' schedule conflicts. Each attendee paid \$50, which also included transportation costs. Council asked if there were any provisions to help students with needs-based financial assistance for this and whether the parish should help fund the Peer Ministry Retreat in the future. Jessica stated that it was a good retreat, with many tie-in's noted to the overall retreat theme.

Council thanked Jessica for her report, finding this to be very helpful.

**PARISHIONER FEEDBACK UPDATE:** Tom Cordaro noted that the Small Groups, which met during the fall, using the four-session "Hearts on Fire!" reflection guide, have all provided very favorable feedback about this experience. Some members of Council have also participated in these groups, with Cabrina Attal, Janene Parisi, and Carl Van Dril reporting that their respective Small Groups would like to continue meeting. The continuing Small Groups might also be able to serve as "focus groups" on the Parish Theme.

As there appears to be enough interest to again offer new Small Group sign-up and formation for this four-session "Hearts on Fire!" program, Tom requested that any Council members interested in leading new Small Groups should contact him shortly. The new four-part Small Group sessions would probably start in late January. There would then be two different types of Small Groups meeting at two different levels, including "beginners" following the original four-part series, along with "advanced groups" which are continuing to meet beyond the series.

There was some discussion about a parishioner offering handouts after Sunday Masses with counter-viewpoints about various Parish Social Mission Week topics. Tom Cordaro noted that this parishioner complies with the request to always include her name on these handouts, along with a statement that that this is not a parish-sanctioned position. In continuing with the theme of "All Are Welcome," Council was not opposed to this parishioner continuing to do so in the above manner, although still noting that some parishioners are confused with these handouts.

Victoria Kosirog, Parish Librarian, reported that there are numerous additional bound copies of Fr. Paul's homilies in the Parish Library. According to Fr. Paul, the copies were made available by Joan Noonan and her team, who had transcribed and edited them – Joan printed the soft cover versions, and an anonymous donor had paid for the

hard bound copies. Council discussed finding additional “homes” for these within the Christian Worship and Education Commissions, as well as offering these to interested parishioners. A parish bulletin notice might be used for this. In addition, Fr. Paul’s homilies appear in the parish bulletins, as posted online.

**AD HOC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:** The Ad Hoc Communications Committee, consisting of Carl Van Dril, Victoria Kosirog, and Neil Gorman, recently held its second meeting. As a result, Carl Van Dril had prepared and electronically sent *Communications Strategy and Plan for SMMP* to Council in advance, outlining the Committee’s Objective, Opportunities, and Approaches. The Committee outlined a plan to learn about the current state of communication methods, along with needs, issues, and recommendations from the parish’s current stakeholders (Parish Leadership, Parish Support Staff, Commissions, Ministry Groups, and Parishioners at Large). During 2015-16, the Communications Committee plans to inventory the current communication methods and capabilities used within the parish, as well as investigate communication practices by other faith communities. Starting in September 2016, the Committee then plans to report back to Council about its findings and recommendations.

Carl noted that the Committee is attempting to “do a few things well,” using a broad participant list with dialogue. It will focus on learning about the following: (1.) what are the parish stakeholders doing; (2.) what are the stakeholders’ opportunities and issues; and (3.) what are the core capabilities. Council stressed the importance of continuing to use social media, including the parish website, Twitter, and Instagram. The Committee also plans to contact Ann-Marie Cronin, SMMP parishioner and former Council Member, who is the Director of Marketing for the Diocese of Joliet.

As a follow-up to last month’s discussion about offering parish bumper stickers, Victoria shared information about these. Prices for approximate orders of 200 include: magnetic bumper stickers @ \$1.78; bumper stickers with light adhesive @ \$1.46; and vinyl window clings @ \$4.00. Council expressed greatest interest in vinyl window clings. Further discussion will continue about these at a later date.

***Following this, Council took a break from 7:50-8:10 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Carl Van Dril. Carl was then thanked for providing these.***

**OTHER AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

**Nominations Committee:** Victoria Kosirog requested submission of potential candidates’ names for At-Large Council Membership – she has now received a new submission. Meanwhile, Janene Parisi named a potential candidate from CEC as her replacement on Council, starting in 2016-17. The CEC will need to approve its next Representative on Council to replace Janene.

**Appreciation Dinner Committee:** Co-Chairmen Carl Van Dril and Don Wenig reported that they are now working with the budget for the Parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (to be held on 1/16/16), with plans under way to contract with Angeli’s for catering. The

dinner's theme will be "Thank You." Victoria will coordinate attendees' optional sign-up to provide appetizers and desserts – this additional sign-up will be included on the registration form. Other Council assignments were made tonight for the Appreciation Dinner, and Youth Ministry Director Dan Lawler will be contacted for teen volunteer help (for the nametag table, coat check area, and table service/busing).

All Council Members are requested to help with set-up and decorations, starting on Friday night (1/15/16). They should then arrive by 5:30 p.m. on 1/16/15 and also plan to help with clean-up and table area take-down. Lastly, Council agreed on renting wine-colored tablecloths for the event, due to previous laundering difficulties with parish-owned white table linens.

### **COMMISSION REPORTS:**

**Administration:** [*Minutes – St. Margaret Mary Finance Committee Meeting, Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 201, 7:30 p.m. were electronically sent in advance by Mike Prus, a copy of which is shown hereto*].

As based on the minutes, Neil Gorman noted that it was unclear as to who was in attendance at last month's Finance Committee meeting. He noted that Parish Soft is a new financial software program made available by the Diocese. Any Council Members who are interested in attending the 12/21/15 Finance Committee should notify Mike Prus about this in advance, especially to receive any preliminary preparatory documents.

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

Brian Pelz, CWC Representative, reported that, although the CWC will not be meeting in December, the Commission is very busy with preparations for the Advent season and Christmas.

He especially thanked all of the CWC ministries for their efforts in preparing for and presenting Fr. Paul's 40 Anniversary Mass (11/22/15). The two adult choirs, along with musicians, had provided liturgical music for this special anniversary celebration, with Council also noting the excellence of this music.

According to Brian, the Naperville Men's Glee Club will perform in concert ["Christmas Presence – Advent Concert"] at SMMP on 12/5/15 at 7:30 p.m. [There is an admission charge for this].

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

According to Janene Parisi, CEC Representative, SMMP's Religious Education Program bases its class schedule upon School District 203 and 204's academic calendar. Although the school districts will be in attendance on 12/21/15, SMMP has

replaced its 12/21/15 R.E. classes with its “Cookies and Carols,” especially planned for the elementary and junior high school students – this will also be open to all parishioners. “Cookies and Carols” will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the church and will include readings and reflections about the true meaning of Christmas. Cookies and punch will be served afterward in the Parish Center.

The Commission will continue to work on creating a covenant with parents about children’s Religious Education Program attendance, participation, and commitment. Plans are under way to work with parent focus groups on this.

Janene noted the success of a recent “Square 1 Art” fundraiser held within the R.E. Program, which was spearheaded by Maria Morgan (Ranchview School parent). This fundraiser netted approximately \$800 (from \$1,500 worth of products ordered) for SMMP’s R.E. Program. Council discussed how various ministries can also hold their own fundraisers for specific programs, e.g. for Daybreak Ministry or PADS. There was some additional discussion about how parishioners could increase their giving for specific ministries, by indicating a contribution increase for a designated ministry area through the automated ParishPay giving system.

Janene explained how last school year’s Junior High Ministry’s winter “Warm the Heart” event was well-advertised through the use of Instagram. She requested ideas for possible new service projects, which the junior high students could optionally do at the next “Warm the Heart” event. She noted that it was challenging trying to find enough places to donate the student-made fleece scarves, which were produced at last year’s event.

Lastly, Janene reported that there are approximately 100 high school students who will be confirmed at SMMP in 2016.

**Christian Service (CSC):** Cabrina Attal, CSC Representative, expressed thanks to the presenters from St. Andrew Parish-Romeoville for their program at SMMP on Our Lady of Guadalupe (11/30/15) – the presenters were very enthusiastic and pleased about this. SMMP parishioners are also invited to attend Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day program and 7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Andrew Parish on 12/12/15.

Tom Cordaro noted that SMMP did not hold its annual collection of Thanksgiving turkeys this year for its two Sharing Parishes in Aurora and had failed to communicate to them about this in advance. Although SMMP has not yet formally ceased being a Sharing Parish with these two parishes in Aurora, its failure to communicate with them about the Thanksgiving turkeys was “an embarrassment.” Tom noted that these two parishes in Aurora will still be recipients for SMMP’s 2015 Giving Tree Christmas Program.

The Contemporary Choir is “adopting” the Daybreak Transitional Housing Ministry family this year, especially during the holiday season.

Lastly, Cabrina shared news with Council that she and her family will be relocating to Cincinnati at the end of the 2015-16 school year, due to her husband’s new job. She and her husband have been active SMMP parishioners for the past 13 years, with this

being a big upcoming loss to the parish. Cabrina will be leaving Council one year before having completed her three-year term as CEC Representative.

**FINAL “WHIP” AROUND:** Comments included:

- “Very informative meeting.”
- “Good dialogue – good discussion about going beyond the four Small Group sessions, too.”
- “Good meeting – please don’t forget about our *Parishioners Helping Parishioners* Program, too.”
- “Lots of information tonight.”
- “God is speaking to us through *Hearts on Fire!*”
- “Good meeting.”
- “Good meeting.”
- “Good meeting.”
- “The meeting went very well. It was good to hear from [Youth Representative] Jessica tonight – this was very informative.”
- “Outstanding energy, not just seen at tonight’s meeting.”

**CLOSING:** Carl Van Dril led tonight’s closing prayer. Following this, the meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.

***The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 5, 2016, at St. Margaret Parish, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room.***

*Opening/Closing Prayer (January) – Janene Parisi*  
*Refreshments (January) – Janene Parisi*

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury  
Recording Secretary

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MINUTES

St. Margaret Mary

Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 18th, 2015

7:30PM

Room: Staff Conference Room

- **Present:**

- **Absent:**
- Opening Prayer and/or Finance-related Scripture reading – Laurette
- Approval of October minutes
  - Minutes were approved with no changes.
- Review of contributions /financials – Mike
  - Collections are .87% higher than budget and 1.69% over last year. This is a slight decrease over last month.
- Admin Committee News – Mike & Sue
  - Church HVAC
  - PC HVAC
  - Sign
  - Parking Lots Lights
- Review of Parish Soft Reporting
  - Mike gave us a tour of Parish Soft including a look at the standard reports. The FC requested samples of the Quarterly Activity Report for review and further discussion. The FC determined that the level of reporting currently provided was sufficient.
- Men’s Club Audit
  - Will be scheduled in December/January
- New business
  - There was no new business
  - Mike will provide prayers for the next meeting
- Next Meeting – December 21st
- Closing Prayer - Laurette

*-- Submitted by Mike Prus*



**Christian Worship Commission**

## **Monthly Report to Parish Council**

**December 2015**

No CWC Meeting held in November of 2015.

### **Open Items:**

- CWC By-Laws amendments will be revised, reviewed and voted on in January 2016.
- Review software and process used for scheduling EM, Altar Server, Lector and Greeter schedules.
- Review and improve process with establishing Gift Bearers
  - Brian to ask the Parish Council members to sign up to be gift bearers
- Tables in Narthex. Violations of “no table in narthex” policy follow up.
  - There is a policy of no tables in the narthex, but recently there have been tables in the narthex. Ken will address this with the staff at the next staff meeting. Brian will mention it at Parish Council.
- SMMP Ministry Handbook updates: WIP

### **Altar Servers:**

- The family server schedule for the year is put together and the families will be serving at the 5:00, 9:30 and 10:45 mass over the course of the next 6 months.

**Art & Environment:** No report

**Baptism Assistants:** No report

**Bread Bakers:** Baked bread worked well for Fr. Paul's mass. Baked Bread won't be used for Christmas day liturgies.

**Eucharistic Ministers:** No report.

### **Greeters:**

- Getting ready for the sign-up to cover Christmas and New Year's.
- The Men's Club will be the gift bearers for all Masses the weekend of Dec. 13 & 14th.

**Lectors:** No report.

**Linen Launderers:** No report.

**Liturgy Development:** No report.

**Music:**

- Successful 40th anniversary for Paul
- Special thanks to all the musicians who made the anniversary so successful.
- Naperville Men's Glee Club this Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30
- Getting ready for all the Christmas doings

**Sacristans:** No report.

-- *Submitted by Brian Pelz*

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## **CEC Ministry Reports For December 2015**

**Adult Education: Sr. Madelyn Gould**

**BIBLE STUDY:** First semester Bible Study is completed. Second semester will resume on January 5, 2016.

**BOOK STUDY:** Prior to the book discussion on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, the members of the book club will meet to purchase Fr. Jonathan's latest book RETURN OF THE SWALLOWS. The book is being sold through Amazon for \$15.00 and makes a great Christmas gift! For Lent we will have a 'parish read' of "Jesus a Pilgrimage" by Fr. James Martin.

**BUSINESS BREAKFAST:** Chari Rosales from St. Thomas the Apostle provided a meaningful and challenging reflection on The Rich Man and Lazarus. (Lk. 16:19-31). 20 attended.

**EVENING ENRICHMENT:** Terry Nelson-Johnson was our speaker for November. Topic: Prayer: Just What Do You Think You Are Doing. Inspiring! Fifty attended

**MORNING ENRICHMENT:** Forty came out to hear Terry Taylor's presentation on Funerals, Wakes, and Memorials: A Catholic Perspective. Well done. Very informative. Many compliments received. Sr. Sallie Latkovich will be here in December and will present on "What Is Spirituality Anyway?"

RETREATS: The men had 10 attend their CRHP retreat. Women are presently recruiting for their January 30-31 retreat.

“Adventures in Contemplation’ led by Al Gustafson is inspiring with 35 presently registered.

Thirteen registered for the Advent At-Home retreat which is presently taking place.

Publicity has begun for the Parish Mission. Planning is well underway. Recruitment for the various roles in the Mission is also well underway.

Publicity has begun on the Winter Weekend Retreats – Jan. 12-14 (women); Jan 26-28 (Men)

RCIA: We have three (2 women; 1 man) who are presently studying the Catholic faith. They attended the Rite of Continuing Conversion on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. Raymond Cathedral.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: I am seeing 20 directees monthly.

OTHER: Discussion Group on HEARTS ON FIRE went well. About 100 participated

### **PreK–Grade 5: Sue Davey**

Forty-two children registered to attend the First Reconciliation retreat on November 7<sup>th</sup> but only thirty actually attended. The second parent and child meetings were November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Over the course of the two nights approximately 60% of the families attended. First Reconciliation is Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. We still have ten children who have not registered to participate.

Father Paul visited the First Reconciliation preparation classes during the month of November.

On November 21<sup>st</sup> we had a children’s Mass. Approximately, 25 children participated.

Our Square 1Art fundraiser generated approximately \$1500 in sales. Orders are expected to be received by December 1<sup>st</sup>. We do not have a dollar value for our profit on the sales as yet.

The Catechist Open House for Advent activities was the week beginning Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. During Advent we will have a prayer service at the end of every class. This prayer service will include a Jesse Tree. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders are preparing the ornaments for the tree.

On December 8<sup>th</sup> we will have a 4:00 Mass in celebration for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Invitations have gone out to Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade families to participate in the Christmas Eve mass at 6:00.

Classes for the week of December 21<sup>st</sup> have been canceled. Instead we will have a special prayer service on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00. All are invited to join in the service and attend a reception afterward in the parish center.

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

We received our total numbers from the Loaves and Fishes and Marie Wilkinson Food Pantries for our Harvest Sunday food drive. This year we collected about 16,000 pounds of food from our parish boundaries. Last year, we collected over 18,000 pounds so our donations were down slightly. We will be talking with leaders about how to organize and promote better next year.

We had our Peer Ministry Retreat at Dickson Valley Retreat Center the following weekend. We only had 10 out of 30 youth and 5 adults on retreat. Our focus was on exploring Who I am in Christ, Who am I in community, and Who are we in the world. The retreat went really well and helped both individuals and to solidify the Peer Ministry group. Most of the teens who were not able to join us had other school or activity commitments. We are exploring changing our dates for next year to address those issues.

Our Freshmen Retreat took place the following weekend and has received a lot of positive feedback. Our theme for the weekend was a blend of the Wizard of Oz and the Road to Emmaus with a strong focus on Encountering Jesus. Several adults and teens have said it was the best retreat they have been on. There were some maturity issues across the board and we still struggle with conflicts with sports and other activities. There were several teens and adults who missed part or all of the retreat.

Brendan Wagner and Donna Pitock attended National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis. Both teens shared an incredible experience with 20,000 other Catholic teens from around the country. We discussed using their experience and excitement to invite more teens to attend our diocesan Youth Leadership Conference in the summer and NCYC in 2017.

We are beginning planning for our Sophomore Retreat this week which will take place in February.

Our junior high youth will be donating and wrapping toys the week of December 14th for Operation Wrap. We distributed reminders to all classes this week. We are hoping to have at least one toy from each youth.

After reviewing the winter break schedule for schools, we have decided to cancel regular junior high classes and instead offer an joint RE and Youth Ministry program. Cookies and Carols will take place on Monday, December 21st at 4 pm in the Church. All families and parishioners are invited to join us for reflection, singing, and cookies.

**Mental Health and Wellness: Jen Curtin**

No report.

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

*Principal Search Update:* The selection committee had chosen six candidates to interview. Upon scheduling interviews, two candidates withdrew their names from consideration. The team interviewed four candidates in early November and each candidate shared their unique talents and experience. Before the committee makes any recommendations to the executive board concerning the four that were interviewed, the deadline to apply for the position has been extended to January 15, 2016 so additional candidates can be considered.

*Family Prayer Kit Available to All Saints Catholic Academy Students:* In an effort to help parents be the best of teachers and as a family to make the home a domestic church, the Diocese of Joliet Catholic Schools Office has provided prayer kits for every student in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Joliet. Every student will take turns bringing the prayer kit home for one week. The prayer kit contains recourses such as *A Short Guide to Praying as a Family* book, Divine Mercy Prayer Plaque, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet booklet and an Instructional Booklet that allows families to journal their prayer experience.

-- Submitted by Janene Parisi

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**Christian Service Commission**

**Monthly Report to Parish Council**

**December 1, 2015**

**Bereavement:** Prayers were said for all those listed in the Book of Remembrance and those who recently have died. We made final preparations for the Mass of Remembrance and did assignments for Thursday, Dec. 10th.

**Blood Drive:** No news this month

**Boy Scouts:** No report

**Charitable Contributions:** The November meeting of the Charitable Contributions Committee (CCC) was held on Tuesday November 10, 2015. Seven not-for-profit organizations were visited and reviewed by CCC members, resulting in a total of \$16,500 being awarded to those organizations during the November meeting. The Committee has \$10,650 remaining to grant for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Two new CCC members were recruited by Don Cronauer on November 8<sup>th</sup> at the CCC "After Mass Meet-Up." The Committee now has 9 members, which is a very workable number.

Seven organizations are scheduled for review at the December meeting. The review of two of these seven organizations is pending receipt of their financial information. In all likelihood, the Committee will allocate all of its remaining funds at the December meeting.

**Daybreak Transitional Housing:** Daybreak client celebrated first Thanksgiving with us-a turkey and gift certificate to Jewel helped her celebrate it. Contemporary choir has once again adopted our family and we are editing her list to provide the best possible Christmas without going over board.

**Funeral Ministry:** No Funeral Luncheons in November. Received a donation from a Funeral Luncheon held in October and turned it in to the office. Having a Funeral Luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 1st for about 75 people. Will prepare refreshments of cookies and punch for Memorial Mass on Thursday, Dec. 10th.

**Knights of Columbus:** The St. Margaret Mary Knights of Columbus Council 16011 held our monthly meeting on Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup>. In November, the Knights participated in support of the Harvest Sunday (impressive activity for our youth), Hospitality Sunday, and also PADS on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Knights also participated in two activities at All Saints Catholic Academy. On November 24<sup>th</sup>, All-Saints hosted a basketball team made up of seminarians from Joliet, the Joliet Jammers. They competed against the 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball team in front of the entire 4<sup>th</sup> through eighth grade classes. It was a wonderful success as the seminarians made a presentation to the students about religious vocations at half-time. Third and fourth graders will again participate in the international KofC "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster contest. This week, as part of their religion class, they will be asked how they will keep Christ's birth as the real "reason for the season" in their homes.

Two new members have joined our council, SMM "charter member" Bob Presnak and Deacon Joe Ferrari. We are pleased to have them continue their significant contributions to our parish.

**Men's Club:** We held our Fall Dinner on November 7th, with 44 in attendance. The food was excellent, and a great time was had by all. We had 80 members present for our November meeting. Our budget for 2015 - 2016 was presented and approved by the membership. We held our Fall Card night on November 20th. We had 19 attend the event and a great time was had by all.

**Nursery:** No report

**Pastoral Care:** No news this month

**Peace & Justice Advisory Working Group:** The peace and justice group and our Earth Care Committee have been working together to place items in the bulletin during the month of November focused on Pope Francis' environment encyclical and actions in support of the Parish Summit on the Environment in November.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE: The committee has been busy at work. Pre-registration forms were stuffed in the bulletin in November and sign-up weekend will take place on the weekend of Dec. 5/6th. All gift donations will be dropped off at the parish on Saturday, December 19th.

**Pro-L.I.F.E. Committee:** No special activities planned for this month. Naperville Christians for Life Interdenominational Prayer Service will be held January 23, 2016 at St. Thomas the Apostle church. Info will be in the bulletin during January.

**St. Vincent de Paul:** SVDP helped seven families with assistance ranging from mattresses to utilities to rent. This is in addition to gas and food vouchers which we distribute on a regular basis. *Checkbook balance is low.*

**September Club:** On Wednesday, November 4, 2015, 27 members enjoyed turkey & all the trimmings at Quincy's Restaurant. Members were asked to remember those members who are ill in their prayers. November birthdays and anniversaries were recognized. In December we will meet in the Parish Center for our annual Christmas celebration with musical entertainment. Details will be in the upcoming bulletin.

**Sharing Parish:** On November 30 Deacon Ricardo Marquez from St. Andrew Parish presented a program explaining the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the symbolism of her image. We are invited to attend the Feast Day celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Andrew on Saturday, December 12: Play on OLG story and folkloric dance at 6 pm; Liturgy at 7 pm, followed by refreshments. We are exploring being Sharing Parishes with St. Andrew.

-- *Submitted by Cabrina Attal*