

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
October 4, 2016

Members Present: Jim Chitwood, Tom Cordaro, Victoria Kosirog, Mary Oliphant, Brian Pelz, Carrie Tilton, Carl Van Dril, Brendan Wagner, Don Wenig, Tom Zakosek
Members Absent: Fr. Paul Hottinger, Julie Lomax

Council President Carl Van Dril called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Parish Center, with the opening prayer prepared by Don Wenig.

Fr. Paul was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to his being away on retreat.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2016 MEETING MINUTES:

Tom Cordaro motioned to approve the meeting minutes from September 6, 2016, with Victoria Kosirog seconding, and the Council approving these. The minutes, along with Commission reports, will now be posted onto the Council's web page. As new Council Secretary, Jim Chitwood will provide a monthly summary of the meeting minutes for inclusion in the parish bulletin and has already done so capably for this past month.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Parish Theme and Calling Two-Year Plan Ad Hoc Committee: According to Tom Cordaro, this committee met last night, showing good energy and producing some excellent ideas. Tom noted that some of these ideas should help improve the parish theme and calling's impact and connectedness with parishioners. He anticipated that the committee will probably need to meet two additional times before completing its project goals. Committee Members include: Carl Van Dril, Jim Chitwood, Julie Lomax, and Tom Cordaro.

Three-Year Discernment Cycle Committee: Having recently met, this committee focused on planning for the remaining two years of the new three-year cycle. Their ideas will be presented to the Parish Leadership Staff Members and then to Fr. Paul. Committee Members include: Tom Cordaro, Carrie Tilton, Tom Zakosek, and Brian Pelz.

Adult Formation Committee: Fr. Paul, Carl Van Dril, and Tom Cordaro had met with some of the Adult Formation Committee Members at a workshop in early September. Although all sixteen members of the committee were invited to this weekday morning workshop, only five were in attendance. All of the attendees were interested in "traveling" with the Parish Leadership to help expand the Parish Discernment Cycle. In efforts to build parish community, Tom Cordaro will attempt to keep them "in the loop"

with the Parish Leadership and will include them on the distribution list for various articles reflecting the Signs of the Times pertaining to the community, nation, and world.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Carl presented the Communications Committee's proposal to create a Communications Coordinator position at SMMP. As the Committee strongly felt that this important role should not be dependent on volunteerism, it recommended that the Communications Coordinator should be a paid Staff position. The committee had begun exploring communication issues, needs, and gaps within the parish, starting in 2015-16. It had included individual interviews with many parish Staff, along with numerous surveys about the Commissions' and ministries' communication cares and concerns. A summary report, outlining the conclusions and findings, was presented to Council and SMMP Staff in April 2016. The report highlighted the weakness of SMMP's overall communications infrastructure. It provided several recommendations, including improving parish communications around the domains of people, communications processes, and communications tools.

The Communications Committee also analyzed several local peer faith communities to better understand differences in their communications infrastructure. These included: Old St. Patrick's Church in Chicago's West Loop; St. Anne Catholic Parish, Barrington; Trinity Lutheran Church, Lisle; St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Naperville; and St. Raphael Parish, Naperville. All of these had a dedicated staff person (or persons) coordinating and managing all of the respective faith community's key communication processes and tools. Online scheduling management systems were used for volunteer sign-up, scheduling, and communications. The importance of the Communications Coordinator's role in coordinating communication, as well as being highly collaborative within the faith community, was duly noted.

According to Neil Gorman (former SMMP Council Member and current Diocesan Parish Council Member), much of the Diocesan Council's September meeting pertained to Bishop Conlon's focus on making communication a key priority within the Diocese. The Diocesan parishes present widely diverse communication needs, ranging from those of small rural parish communities to large, highly technical ones. Bishop Conlon announced the recent appointment of Edward P. Flavin as Director of Communications within the Diocesan Office of Communications. Flavin will work on improving communication among a variety of ministries and groups within the Diocese. The Office of Communications is available for help to its parishes and is very interested in Neil's reporting back on SMMP's communications-related surveys, results, and recommendations.

Council discussed various possibilities for this new Communications Coordinator position, e.g. sharing a paid part-time Communications Coordinator with another parish and/or hiring through an outside firm. The recommendation would be to start this as a part-time position, which might then grow to a full-time position. It was noted that the Diocese could help provide salary range guidelines, including benefit package information. The financing for this new position is not currently within the parish budget and would require future review and approval by Fr. Paul and the Finance Committee.

While Council can make recommendations, it can neither make financing or hiring decisions. Council will continue to review this at next month's meeting before making any recommendations.

Mental Health Ministry: Mary Oliphant requested that Council also remember to keep open the possibility of re-establishing the Mental Health Ministry, including the possibility of hiring a future part-time staff member for this. Although SMMP's Mental Health Ministry had only existed for approximately one year, it was headed by volunteer Jen Curtin, a Licensed Professional Counselor, who then needed to step down in 2015-16 from this ministry leadership role due to her mother's illness. As this ministry then lacked both a professionally trained head as well as a staff sponsor, it has not been yet been re-established at SMMP. Nevertheless, the need for such a ministry continues to exist, especially as a Sign of the Times.

The Mental Health Ministry will be put on Council's future agenda. Victoria Kosirog will research some background on the Mental Health Ministry at SMMP and will share this with Council.

PARISH VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER COMMITTEE: Appreciation Dinner Co-Chairs Don Wenig and Jim Chitwood will be reporting to Council soon about plans for this upcoming event (to be held on 1/14/17). They have the information file for this and will refer to its contents as a guide. There was some concern expressed that no current Council members had shadowed the former Council members who had operated the parish dishwasher at last year's Appreciation Dinner, with hopes that this not be problematic for the upcoming event.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: Council is encouraged to think about potential future candidates to be nominated for At-Large Representative positions on Council and to start dialoguing with them. Carl Van Dril and Mary Oliphant will co-chair this committee.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE: Youth Representative Brendan Wagner shared some information about how full and demanding many high schoolers' daily schedules are, especially with school work loads and time constraints with additional school-related activities. Council discussed how the parish could provide a welcoming environment to help lessen stress and anxiety for our overstressed and overscheduled youth.

Brendan also verified the importance of social media as an "everyday" communication tool used by his peers.

Following this, Council took a break from 8:15-8:25 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Don Wenig. Don was thanked for these.

PLANNING FOR FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING TOPICS: Council expressed interest in the following topics:

- Review of Council's by-laws, with possible updates
- Increase Council's awareness of worldwide church visioning, thereby becoming a better learning community
- Improve Council connectedness with other parish ministries
- Establish a priority list of parish needs, including the Mental Health Ministry and a Communications Coordinator

There was some additional discussion about the need for Commission leaders to communicate with their respective ministry groups and with Council, along with helping make the parish theme and calling "come alive" to the ministry groups. Although the Commission Reports typically are a compilation of the various ministries' activity summaries, it would also be helpful for the ministries to determine and share their yearly goals.

Although subsidiarity is practiced within the parish, there are some weaknesses inherently noted with this. The importance of maintaining a true communal identity as a faith community rather than merely as groups of individuals and/or as individual ministry groups was especially noted. Although there are both benefits and downfalls associated with term limits, Council expressed concerns about the importance of setting term limits within various ministry groups, also highlighting the need for various ministry leaders to find and train their designated successors. Council expressed interest in their "touching bases" with all of the parish ministries as part of a "ministry check-up."

Council will continue its conversation about reviewing its by-laws, in an effort to make these more relevant and identify areas which are out of date. Victoria will electronically send out the most recent copy of Council's by-laws, along with statements about subsidiarity and consensus, to Council.

"WHAT ARE WE HEARING FROM PARISHIONERS" – DISCUSSION:

Some parishioners have reportedly expressed distress and upset about the recent removal of chairs within the Narthex and at the back of the church. According to Mary Oliphant, the Liturgy Group has determined that there is now sufficient room within the church worship space to accommodate all participants at Mass without an overflow area needed. She also noted that the extra chairs located in the back of the church could potentially impede emergency situations. Council discussed some reasons why some participants might choose seating in the Narthex, e.g. the alleviation of physical discomfort associated with sitting on a pew seat, the physical need to periodically walk due to a physical problem, or the need to remove an active toddler from the main worship space and/or "Infant Cry Room." It was suggested that the Liturgy Group submit an article to the parish bulletin explaining the rationale for the chair removal. It was also suggested that the Greeters be encouraged to offer folding chairs to parishioners who specifically request seating in the Narthex. Council asked that feedback continue to be

gathered from the parish about the recent seating changes and that the Liturgy Group remains sensitive to this information.

Council expressed its continued concerns about a parishioner, who passed out unsanctioned and unsolicited handouts to parishioners in the Narthex upon their exiting from this past Sunday's Masses. It was felt that this information was divisive and unrelated to neither the Parish Social Mission nor endorsed by any ministry. Council stressed that no personal or political messages should be distributed on church property, including in the parking lot. Tom Cordaro will relay Council's concerns to Fr. Paul upon his return from retreat.

Lastly, it was noted with appreciation that Fr. Paul's homilies have become more "pastoral, personal, and digestible."

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Administration: [Saint Margaret Mary Parish Administration Commission Minutes of Wednesday, September 7, 2016 were electronically submitted in advance by Mike Prus, a copy of which is shown hereto].

[Minutes – St. Margaret Mary Finance Committee Meeting, Wednesday, September 21, 2016, 7:30 p.m. were electronically submitted in advance by Mike Prus, a copy of which is shown hereto].

There was no representative from Administration in attendance at tonight's meeting. There were no additional questions or concerns raised by Council as pertaining to the two sets of minutes received.

Christian Worship (CWC): [St. Margaret Mary Christian Worship Commission Meeting Minutes, September 22, 2016, 6:30-7:30 p.m. were electronically submitted in advance by Brian Pelz, a copy of which is shown hereto].

No additional questions or concerns were raised by Council to Brian Pelz, CWC Representative. Council expressed its kudos to the CWC and to the Liturgy Team for "The Mystery and Call" Formation Night, which was held on 9/02/16. Fr. Pat McDevitt was the guest presenter to over 100 parishioner attendees.

Christian Service (CSC): [Christian Service Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council, October 4, 2016 was electronically submitted in advance by Carrie Tilton, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Carrie Tilton, CSC Representative, and Tom Cordaro noted that only 6 attendees from the 15 service ministries had attended the CSC's mid-September meeting.

Carrie reported that the Parish Nursery needs 1-2 teen assistants, who are at least 16 years old. Nursery help is needed from 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Sundays. Teen helpers

who are 18 years old or older would need to complete Protecting God’s Children training.

Christian Education (CEC): [CEC Ministry Reports, October 2016 were electronically submitted in advance by Julie Lomax, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Julie Lomax, CEC Representative, was not present at tonight’s meeting. There were no additional questions or concerns raised by Council as pertaining to the CEC minutes.

OTHER: Carl stated that Neil Gorman would be invited to attend the November Council meeting, especially to update Council about the Diocesan Council.

FINAL ‘WHIP’ AROUND: Comments included:

- “Long meeting!”
- “Good meeting.”
- “Good discussions.”
- “Kudos on communication documents – well-presented.”

CLOSING: Council read aloud the Closing Prayer, as prepared by Don Wenig. Following this, the meeting ended at 9:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 1st in the Parish Center (downstairs), starting at 7:00 p.m.

November Opening/Closing Prayer: Brendan Wagner and Victoria Kosirog

November Refreshments: Brendan Wagner and Victoria Kosirog

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary

**SAINT MARGARET MARY PARISH
ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Wednesday, September 7, 2016**

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

Members Absent: Klaus Rummer.

1. Opening Prayer: Led by Mike Prus.

2. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the May 23 meeting were approved “by acclamation”, without changes.

3. Discussion/Decision Items:

A. Parking Lot Maintenance

Tom Hill reported that he contacted at least three contractors, and one responded to review our property, Briggs Paving. The commission reviewed the proposal by Briggs and reviewed areas of the Green Trails parking lots where Briggs had proposed work (beyond sealcoating and striping for the entire lot). The commission agreed to ask Tom to meet with Briggs with our questions, together with Bob Stezowski and Mike Prus. The commission likely will receive a revised proposal, for the commission’s review and approval.

B. Snow Removal

Mike presented the proposal for snow removal and salting prepared by Green Grass. Green Grass has performed these services well for the parish for several years. The pricing in the proposal is very similar to 2015-16. The commission authorized Mike to sign the agreement with Green Grass.

C. Parish Center AHU report

Mike, Jeff Jameson, and Bob reported work since the last meeting. Premier Mechanical performed the bulk of the work in June and July, and the air conditioning and heating for the Parish Center are operational. There are a number of small lingering issues which require attention, and recent communications have been slow. Final payment has been withheld, and completion of these tasks is likely soon.

D. Scheduling future meetings

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

4. Member Reports and Discussion:

A. Chuck Marquis: No report.

B. Bob Stezowski, Building Manager: Bob worked on the upholstery project (initiated by Christian Worship and Art & Environment) for kneelers and chairs for the church area through the summer, which is near completion.

C. Sue Schroeder, Finance: 1) The Finance Committee met in June before the summer break, and welcomed a new member, Jeff Kroma. 2). Budget and Year End financial information reporting, required by the diocese, has been completed. 3) The committee resumes its monthly meetings on September 21.

D. Michael Prus, Business Manager: Installation of new LED lighting for the Green Trails lots is expected very soon.

E. Tom Hill, Chairperson & Building Committee: No further report.

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

G. Klaus Rummer: Absent.

5. New Business: None.

6. Evaluation: A very good meeting.

7. Closing Prayer: Led by Chuck Marquis.

- *Submitted by Mike Prus*

MINUTES
St. Margaret Mary
Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 21, 2016
7:30PM
Room: Staff Meeting Room

- **Present:** Helen, Laurette, Mike, Jeff, Sue
- **Absent:**

- Opening Prayer and/or Finance-related Scripture reading – Sue
- Approval of June minutes
 - Approved by acclamation
- Review of contributions /financials – Mike
 - Contributions are below budget by 4.3% and below last year by 2.42%

- o There was no salary for Priests, Mike will look into this.
- o Tuition is \$15K ahead of budget, this is most likely timely
- o \$35K was paid to the HVAC vendor.
- Admin Committee News – Mike & Sue
 - o Mike will submit meeting minutes to the PC.
- Year End Reports for Bulletin
 - o Will be in this weekend’s bulletin.
 - o Comment next meeting on what information could be charted.
- Transfer of 2015-16 funds to R&R Account
 - o \$50K from operating to the repair and replacement account
- Budget and YE submissions to the diocese
 - o Budget was submitted by June 1st.
 - o YE Financials were submitted the first week in September.
- 2016-17 Schedule
- New business
- Closing Prayer – Sue, Helen Next meeting.

**Finance Committee Meeting Schedule
Wednesday, October 19th, 2016**

St. Margaret Mary Christian Worship Commission Meeting

Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2016 – 6:30-7:30 P.M.

I. Call to order

1. **Brian Pelz** called to order the regular meeting of the **St. Margaret Mary Christian Worship Commission** at **6:35 PM** on **September 22, 2016**. Opening prayer by Brian Pelz

II. Roll call

Ministry	Name	Attended
Altar Servers	Deacon Ken Miles	No
Art & Environment	Courtney Murtaugh	No
Baptism Assistants	Tom Zakosek	No
Bread Bakers	Brigid Cordaro	No
CWC Representative on PC	Brian Pelz	Yes
Eucharistic Ministers	Barb Ryan	Yes
Family Altar Servers	Mary Oliphant	No
Greeters	Gus Fischer	Yes
Greeters	Mark Marsaglia	No
Lectors	Terry Wagner	No
Linen Launderers	Loretta Mercadante	No
Liturgy Coordinator	Deacon Ken Miles	No
Liturgy Development Chair	Mary Oliphant	No
Music Ministry	John Schlaman	Yes
Sacristans	Barb Ryan	Yes

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

No review or approval completed.

IV. Open Items (not on the agenda for this meeting)

1. Ministry Scheduling Process Review
2. Gift Bearer Ministry Process Review

V. Agenda

Duration	Topic	Lead
2	Opening Prayer	Brian
2	2016 Meeting Schedule	Brian
2	Thank you to the Oliphants for the BBQ Picnic	Brian
4	October 2 Ministry Formation Invitations	Brian
4	Reupholstering Status & Thanks	Brian
2	Parish Theme and Calling – Incorporate into the ministries	Brian
4	Ministry Training Sessions and Training Manuals	Brian
5	Process for selecting new ministry leads (Barb has served for 6 years)	Brian, All
5	Advent & Christmas Preparation	Brian, All

15	CWC By-Laws Amendments – Review and Approval	Brian, All
2	Parish Council Recap – Communication Comm, Kiosk, T&C, New bread plate nice	Brian
8	Ministry Reports	All
4	New Business	All
1	Closing Prayer	Brian
60		

VI. Open Items

1. Ministry Scheduling Process Review
 - a. There are continued challenges with the current scheduling and communication process for the EM's. This item has also been forwarded to the Communication Committee for awareness. This continues to be an open item on the CWC agenda.
2. Gift Bearer Ministry Process Review
 - a. No discussion

VII. Agenda Discussion

3. Thanks to the Oliphants for hosting a wonderful summer barbecue.
4. October 2 Ministry Formation Invitations
 - a. Ministry leads to continue to encourage their ministers to attend the October 2 Formation evening.
5. Reupholstering Status & Thanks
 - a. CWC to print a thank you in the bulletin for all of those who contributed time and money to the reupholstering effort in the church.
6. Parish Theme and Calling – Incorporate into the ministries
 - a. Encouraged leads to incorporate the Theme and Calling in the ministries.
7. Ministry Training Sessions and Training Manuals
 - a. Training sessions are scheduled when required for new people, new procedures or for review.
 - b. Establish an SMM document repository for ministry aids, how to's and documentation. Will talk to Mike Prus to determine if such a repository currently exists.
8. Process for selecting new ministry leads (Barb has served for 6 years)
 - a. Communicate to the ministry first via one-on-one phone calls or in person
 - b. Reach out to ministers via email
 - c. If needed, then reach out to the parish via the bulletin.
9. Advent & Christmas Preparation
 - a. Not discussed
10. CWC By-Laws Amendments – Review and Approval
 - a. There was continued productive discussion about the CWC By-Laws. As there are still changes being made, the By-Law changes were not voted on at the September meeting.
 - i. Discussion about whether there should be a term limit for how long a person can be a ministry coordinator.
 - ii. What is the recruitment and selection process for new ministry coordinators?
 - iii. Discussion about “At Large” members in CWC

- 11. Parish Council Recap – Communication Comm, Kiosk, T&C, New bread plate nice
 - a. Not discussed
- 12. Ministry Reports
 - a. Not discussed
- 13. New Business
 - a. Not discussed
- 14. Closing Prayer

VIII. Adjournment

Brian Pelz adjourned the meeting at **7:36**.

Minutes submitted by: Brian Pelz

**Christian Service Commission
 Monthly Report to Parish Council
 October 4, 2016**

Bereavement:

We had 18 new Bereavement Cases to call and we talked about our upcoming event...that is going to be held on Sunday, October 23rd at 7:00PM in the upper room on Hospice and Palliative Care. Also we did discuss the upcoming Remembrance Mass which will be held December 15th, Thursday at 7:00PM.

(Submitted by Patti McGehee)

Blood Drive: The next blood drive will be on Saturday, October 15th.

(Submitted by Joan Allemeier)

Boy Scouts:

Boy Scout Troop 507 assisted with SMMP Men's Club at the parish picnic providing garbage duty and Sept. 11 color guard for ceremony for a total of 35 man hours of service that day.

(Submitted by Ramona Vaikutis)

Charitable Contributions:

Eight returning members were present for the Sept meeting. Twenty two requests for donations were received. Twelve requests have been distributed for evaluation and discussion at the Oct meeting.

(Submitted by Ann Schwartz)

Daybreak Transitional Housing: We are preparing to interview a client with Bridge to welcome them into our Daybreak Transitional Housing Program. The mentoring team has already been established. We are looking forward to this new association which allows us to expand our commitment to helping people in need.

Further, we are doing a clothing drive for our current family- a 40 year old father and his 6 year old son.

(Submitted by Pat McAuliffe)

Funeral Ministry: We have had no Funeral Luncheons or Emergency Meals.

(Submitted by Kathy Kalina)

Knights of Columbus:

Activities for September 2016

- Knights helped volunteer at Parish Picnic.
- Knights helped with St. Raphael's and our own Tootsie Roll Street Corner fund raiser to support the K of C Intellectually Disabled Charity the weekend of September 16 & 17.
- K of C Council Business Meeting on September 22.
- Knights continued Tootsie Roll ID Drive at storefronts the weekend of September 23 & 24.
- Knights brought up gifts at masses on September 24 & 25.

(Submitted by Dan Patt)

Men's Club: We want to thank everyone who helped with our annual picnic. Without your help we could not be successful. Again thank you! We had 60 members present for our September meeting. After the meeting we counted tickets from our picnic. We had our fall golf outing, and dinner afterwards. Everyone had a great time.

We are planning for our Fall Dinner. See the bulletin for additional details.

(Submitted by Gus Fischer)

Nursery:

The Sunday nursery (9am and 10:45am masses) has been well attended. Cailin would be very happy to find back up babysitters to fill in as need (paid or volunteer). Please email Cailin if you have any ideas and/or possible candidates at cailinramirez@yahoo.com.

(Submitted by Carrie Tilton, based on a conversation with Cailin Ramirez)

Pastoral Care: Nothing to report.

(Submitted by Deacon Fred Straub)

Peace & Justice Advisory Working Group:

Our past parish social mission weekend advocacy for expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit to more low-income workers was successful. We collected 225 signed postcards for each of our senators and our representative. Our next parish social mission weekend will take place the weekend of October 22/23. The theme will be, "Embrace the Kingdom of Mercy: Who Are We to Judge?" Our advocacy focus will be to urge Governor Rauner to drop his opposition to settling Syrian refugees in Illinois. We will also be collecting the names of any parishioners who might want to explore ways our parish might help refugee families in the area. On Sunday, November 13th we will offer a fair trade store in the Upper Room after all Masses that will feature products from 10,000 Villages.

(Submitted by Tom Cordaro)

Earth Care Sub-Committee: No report

Christmas Giving Tree: Our committee has begun meeting to plan this year's collection. Pre-registration will begin October 29th. Sign-up Weekend will take place December 3/4 and Drop Off Saturday will be December 17th. The gifts and gift cards collected are donated to families in need at our Sharing Parishes; St. Nicholas and Sacred Heart parishes in Aurora.

(Submitted by Tom Cordaro)

Pro-L.I.F.E. Committee:

October is Respect Life Month and there are a number of pro-life events scheduled throughout the month:

40 Days for Life

Continues through November 6.

Baby Bottles for Life

364 baby bottles were distributed after Mass on October 1-2. They will be collected the weekend of October 22-23. Proceeds benefit Waterleaf/Women's Choice Center pregnancy resource centers.

Life Chain

Life Chain will be held on Sunday, October 2 from 2-3 pm in Naperville and Lisle.

Rosary & Benediction

Rosary & Benediction Prayer Service for Life will be held Monday, October 10 at 7:30 pm in the church. Fr. Paul will be presiding.

Candlelight Prayer Service

Planned Parenthood's 100th anniversary is this year. Eric Scheidler is holding a Candlelight Prayer Service at Planned Parenthood in Aurora on Saturday, October 15 at 6:00 pm.

(Taken from an email by Mary Ann Cronauer)

St. Vincent de Paul: No report.

September Club:

On Wednesday afternoon September 7, 2015, 37 members gathered in the parish center for a pot luck lunch with delicious dishes & desserts provided by members. Father Paul led us in prayer. 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.

(Submitted by Antoinette Patt)

Sharing Parish:

Checks totaling \$5500 were disbursed to St. Rita of Cascia, St. Therese of Jesus, and St. Peter Catholic Grammar Schools in Aurora for first semester tuition assistance for ten children in seven families.

(Submitted by Martha Rose)

- ***Compiled and submitted by Carrie Tilton***

**CEC Ministry Reports
October 2016**

Adult Education: Sr. Madelyn Gould

BIBLE STUDY – The books of Isaiah and Jeremiah are the focus of our study this year. 55 are registered, the larger group attending in the morning.

BOOK STUDY – The book that will be discussed in October is God of Love: A Guide to the Heart of Judaism, Christianity and Islam by Mirabai Starr.

BUSINESS BREAKFAST: Thirty-nine people were out on September 17th to hear John Blumberg speak on “Unlocking Integrity.” Living by one’s core values leads to integrity. Kate DeVries will speak on ‘The God of Second Chances and the Core Value of Forgiveness.’ October 15th is the date. The COR Center is the place.

EVENING ENRICHMENT: Twenty-three parishioners came to hear David Schimmel speak about “What is Meant by the Kingdom of God.” This presentation helped all understand our parish theme ---“Encounter Jesus; Embrace His Kingdom.” Fr. Pat McDevitt will speak on “The Mass – The Mystery and the Call” on October 2nd. While primarily for liturgical ministers, all are invited to attend and deepen their appreciation for the Eucharistic liturgy.

MORNING ENRICHMENT: Thirty-five were present to hear Barbara Mahaney reflect on “Slowing time: Seeing the Sacred Outside Your Kitchen Door.” Bridget Sperduto is our speaker for Oct. 12. Topic: “Waking Up in the Sacred Universe.”

The Autumn ‘Day of Quiet’ will be held on September 30th at St. Procopius Abbey. 22 are registered. The reflections will focus on “Fragments of the Face of God.”

RETREATS: Both the Men’s and Women’s teams are recruiting for their upcoming retreats. The women had a table at the parish picnic. Thirteen women expressed interest in attending.

Regarding the Preached Retreats that takes place at Cardinal Stritch Retreat House in Mundelein, Sr. Madelyn has met with Fr. Jim Osendorf twice to plan and prepare the presentations for the upcoming retreat. Topic: “Spiritual Make-Over; Becoming a New Creation.”

“Adventures in Contemplation’ led by Al Gustafson, met on the second Monday of the summer months for contemplation and sharing how their commitment to prayer was going. Fifty are registered for “Adventures in Contemplation-Season Two.” The group will participate in Richard Rohr’s webinar on “The Immortal Diamond” and gather on the first and third Mondays (Oct.-December) to reflect on the material and enjoy time for contemplation.

RCIA: We have two women and five men in the new group of RCIA. We resumed meeting on Sunday from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. So far we have discussed what Catholics believe about God, Jesus, the Church. We welcome Kim Cernek to the RCIA Team!

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: I continue to see twenty directees.

TABLE FOR TWO: At present 6 couples are registered. Speaker is Philip Vedova from Samaritan Interfaith Counseling Center. Topic: "Sweeten Your Marriage with the Honey of God's Love."

OTHER: Sr. Madelyn attended the Diocesan Adult Faith Formation day on September 29th. Fr. Richard Fragomeni will speak on "Mercy –We've Just Begun."

S. Madelyn has been invited to give an Afternoon of Reflection on Dec. 1st for ministers in the Joliet Diocese. She has attended three presentations in Milwaukee since Sept. 1st. Topics: "Interfaith Spirituality," Living Interculturally, "Saying Yes to Aging."

PreK–Grade 5: Sue Davey

Classes started Saturday, September 10th. All classes have a catechist. Most of the classes now have a single catechist rather than two co-catechists. However, several of our Jr. High and High School students volunteered to be classroom aides.

On Saturday, August 27th, RE and Youth Ministry had a combined Catechist/Leader Day. Terry Nelson Johnson did a presentation on "Answering the Call". The program included a prayer service. We then broke into two groups (by grade level) for church tours by Sister Madelyn and a discussion on using prayer in the classroom. Approximately 30 catechists are registered to attend.

Two "New" Catechist workshops were held on August 31st. Twelve catechists attended.

Liturgy of the Word for Children resumed on September 10th and 11th. Jo Ann Jeffreys agreed to continue as coordinator. Five news leaders stepped forward to replace those who retired from the program.

Catechetical Sunday was September 24th. Deacon Ken Miles prepared a blessing for the catechists at the weekend Masses.

A Protecting God's Children workshop was held on Saturday, August 13th. A second workshop was held on Tuesday, September 27th.

On Saturday, October 1st we will have a special blessing of pets in celebration of the Feast St. Francis of Assisi. The Glines Family agreed to be our readers.

First Reconciliation information was mailed to parents. The first parent only meeting is Tuesday, October 19th. The retreat is scheduled for Saturday, November 5th. ASCA has provided us with information regarding children involved in sacrament preparation.

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 23rd and February 5th. The first of the three First Communion Blessings rites will be the weekend of October 29th and 30th.

Youth Ministry: Dan Lawler

This year's Catechist Formation featured Terry Nelson Johnson from Old St. Pat's who shared his wisdom in encouraging our catechists to begin their classes with energy and excitement. We received a lot of positive feedback from his presentation and had an overall good day.

We began our confirmation preparation with an introductory meeting that overviewed the Chosen program and our comprehensive approach focusing on catechesis, service, prayer, and community. Parents and teens were asked to come and also given time to discuss several faith related questions. Afterwards, they were dismissed to their small groups to introduce themselves to each other. We also had our first Chosen session in September and started the year off with a lot of excitement and positive energy.

In August, we had a Peer Ministry Kickoff to welcome juniors and seniors and start our year. Most of the attendees were juniors who were confirmed last year and wanted to continue with their faith formation and take on leadership opportunities. Our peer ministers meet two Sundays a month in the Teen Center from 9-10:30 am and typically go to Mass together at 10:45 am. Many of them have also joined our retreat planning team that meets on Monday nights. Brendan Wagner and Alex Komar are directing the freshmen retreat and we have 12 small group leaders who are learning facilitation skills, preparing witness talks, and planning other parts of the retreat. This year's focus will be on Encountering Jesus using the Emmaus story as our inspiration.

Our Junior High catechesis program is off to a good start after struggling to find enough catechists to cover all of our classes. Our opening session included an overview of our events and classes along with opportunities for the youth and parents to meet each other and form community.

After conversations with CEC last year, we have created sign up forms for parents to volunteer for junior high and high school events throughout the year. We are hoping this increases the awareness for parents to volunteer and participate in our faith formation.

We have been meeting with staff and volunteers involved in Young Adult Ministry in the Naperville area in an attempt to create a regional approach to meeting the needs of young adults. We have created a website to promote each other's events and been talking with other ministers to collaborate on some new events. We are hoping to connect with other parish ministries to help reach out to young adults who are not

immersed in our parish culture. Becca has taken on this initiative as part of her work through the Echo program to demonstrate the need for ministering to young adults in our area. We hope to have suggestions and solutions to present to the parish leadership on how to continue this work after she completes her program.

We are promoting a few wider area youth ministry events including a Great America outing, a junior high mini retreat, and a high school speaker. We are also working to solidify a few more social and service events throughout the year for junior high and high school youth and families.

The beginning of this year has been especially challenging trying to manage late or changing registrations, special requests for classes or catechists, finding volunteers, attendance and commitment, competing priorities with sports and other activities, and a general sense of entitlement or consumerism. It has made it much more difficult to be prepared for larger events, plan new initiatives or events, and support for our families and volunteers. We have been discussing these issues in our office and will continue the discussions with CEC but we hope to find some solutions to balance our families' needs with the needs of the community and our mission as a church.

All Saints Catholic Academy: Anne-Marie Cronin

No report.

- *Reports compiled and submitted by Julie Lomax*