

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
May 2, 2017

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

Members Absent: Jim Chitwood

Discernment Candidate Observer Present: Peggy Soeldner

Guest Presenter: Mike Prus

Council President Carl Van Dril called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room, with Julie Lomax offering an opening prayer. He then introduced and welcomed tonight's meeting observer, Peggy Soeldner, who is a Discernment Candidate for At-Large Representative Membership on Council. Carl also welcomed Mike Prus, who would be presenting about the Parish Budget for FY 2017/18.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 2017 MEETING MINUTES:

Don Wenig moved to approve the minutes from April 4, 2017, with Tom Zakosek seconding, and the Council approving these. The minutes, along with Commission reports, will now be posted onto the Council's web page. Council Secretary Jim Chitwood will provide a summary of the meeting minutes for inclusion in the parish bulletin.

FOLLOW-UP ON HOLY WEEK AND EASTER: Carl invited brief discussion about the recent Holy Week and Easter liturgies, with his feeling an "afterglow" about their beauty, meaningfulness, and high attendance. Fr. Paul had especially noted the overall joyfulness at the Easter Masses. Although no formal attendance counts were taken, Head Greeter Gus Fisher had recently confirmed very high Easter attendance. There was some speculation that the recent postcard mailing to the community about Holy Week and Easter services at SMMP might have contributed to the increased attendance. Carl again thanked Victoria Kosirog for her efforts in promoting this postcard outreach mailing to the community.

Although decreased Mass attendance was noted on the past two Sundays after Easter, Fr. Paul suggested inviting the community to a non-liturgical function.

Hospitality Sunday was rescheduled on 5/21/17, due to Fr. Pat's farewell reception on 4/30/17.

PARISH BUDGET FOR FY 2017/18: In Finance Committee Chair Sue Schroeder's absence tonight, Parish Business Manager Mike Prus presented the Finance Committee's recommended Parish Budget for FY 2017/18. This included the Commissions' recent budget submissions, conforming to Council's requests to reduce their non-fixed expenses by 10%.

Mike outlined the month-by-month process, which was followed by the Finance Committee, Council, and the Commissions in creating the Parish Budget for FY 2017/18. Mike also highlighted how the Finance Committee forecasts not only focus on the upcoming fiscal year's financials and Repair & Replacement needs but also include a prediction for the next five years. While staff salaries and benefits remain as fixed costs, as determined by the Diocese, the part-time replacement for retiring Parish Receptionist Rosalie Fall will not receive health care benefits. He also noted that money is being set aside in the Repair & Replacement Fund for the eventual full replacement of the church parking lot; that SMMP's loan payments to the Diocese for ASCA (All Saints Catholic Academy) will be finished after 2020; and that SMMP has two contractual agreements for its two Daybreak Transitional Housing Ministry apartments.

Mike reported that Good Friday collections for PADS were very good, which should help sustain this program at SMMP throughout the year ahead. Easter collections were slightly lower than anticipated, although some late contributions might still be received during the next few weeks.

According to the Finance Committee's projections, the forecasted parish deficit for FY 2017/18 is \$32K. This revenue loss is especially due to the anticipated loss of a previous donor's large annual contributions. As both Fr. Paul and Council expressed their unease about a forecasted deficit that has tripled since FY 2016/17, Council discussed how and if any additional budget cuts could be made. While agreeing to accept the \$32K deficit, Council requested that the new Stewardship Committee work toward raising \$32K to offset this. Council also agreed to more frequently review the Parish Budget throughout the upcoming fiscal year, along with considering possible challenges ahead if the deficit might increase.

Tom Zakosek motioned that Council accept the Parish Budget for FY 2017/18 to include a 10% reduction in non-fixed Commission expenses from the 2015-16 actual results. This also includes acceptance of the forecasted \$32K budget deficit, with a requested challenge to the Stewardship Committee to raise \$32K; a 10% reduction in funding to Charitable Contributions Committee; a continued review by Council of the Parish Budget in Fall 2017; and Council's continued thoughtful reflection of the budget forecast. Don Wenig seconded this, with Council being in consensus. Fr. Paul stated that he felt comfortable with this motion. The approved Parish Budget for FY 2017/18 will be subsequently submitted to the Diocese by the 6/1/17 deadline.

Carl thanked Mike for his presentation tonight prior to Mike's departure.

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

COMMISSION REPORTS: Due to the length of time spent on the Parish Budget discussion, Carl requested that Commission reports be very brief.

Administration: [*Saint Margaret Mary Parish Administration Commission Minutes of Tuesday, April 11, 2017* were electronically submitted in advance by Mike Prus, a copy of which is shown hereto].

There was no discussion pertaining to the Administration Commission.

Christian Worship (CWC): [*Christian Worship Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council – May 2017* was electronically submitted in advance by Brian Pelz, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Brian Pelz, CWC Representative, noted that many efforts are underway to smoothly facilitate the reduction of Sunday Masses from four to three, starting on 6/04/17.

Christian Service (CSC): [*Christian Service Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council – May 2017* was electronically submitted in advance by Carrie Tilton, a copy of which is shown hereto].

According to Carrie Tilton, CSC Representative, an article about Comfort Care Ministry will be appearing in the parish bulletin to include information about funeral lunch. Fr. Paul noted that there are no problems with having funeral lunches at SMMP on Saturdays.

Christian Education (CEC): [*CEC Ministry Reports for May 2017* were electronically submitted in advance by Julie Lomax, a copy of which is shown hereto].

There was no additional discussion pertaining to the report provided by Julie Lomax, CEC Representative.

Youth Representative: Brendan Wagner, Youth Representative, announced that tonight would be his last Council meeting. He was thanked for his participation and attendance throughout 2016-17. Brendan reported that Sam Schroeder is interested in serving next year on Council as Youth Representative. In addition, Kristen Slevnik has expressed interest in serving as Youth Representative.

Council accepts having both Sam Schroeder and Kristen Slevnik serve as Youth Representatives on Council in 2017-18, with their possibly being able to rotationally attend meetings. As high school final exam schedule would interfere with their ability to attend the 5/24/17 evening orientation and discernment meetings for prospective Council representatives, Mary Oliphant and Tom Cordaro will hold a separate Youth Representative orientation for the new Youth Representatives.

Council congratulated Brendan on his plans to attend Purdue University in the fall and wished him well in his future Civil Engineering studies.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE – UPDATES: Mary Oliphant updated Council on the three adult candidates, including Peggy Soeldner, who are currently discerning for the two At-Large Representative positions on Council – these will be for three-year terms. Mary indicated that one additional person, who missed the recent orientation session, might still be interested, too. The parish bulletin will soon contain photos of these candidates, along with their reflective information. Council Members are encouraged to lend their support to these candidates by also attending the Discernment Meeting Night on 5/24/17 at 7 p.m. and by sending in letters of encouragement via the Parish Office to these candidates prior to the Discernment Night.

In response to Sr. Madelyn's request for what Council is looking in new Council members, Council discussed its "wish list" for special qualities and skill sets. It was noted that a background in finance (on the revenue-producing side of stewardship) and communications would be very helpful. Highly desirable qualities include: having openness to theological reflection; willingness to go outside of one's own "comfort zone"; and ability to actively share in group conversation.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS AND UPDATES: There was much positive feedback received from Carl's "Stewardship" presentations at the Sunday Masses on 4/23/17. In response to Carl's request for Stewardship Committee volunteers, there are now 5-7 volunteers interested in serving on the new committee. This committee will meet next week and will focus on helping develop new strategies for raising additional parish revenue, e.g. by encouraging donations to SMMP from required IRA distributions, stock transfers, and estate planning. There is also a need for the Stewardship Committee to approve and coordinate scheduling of all parish fundraising activities. In addition, the Diocese has already received and will broker one stock transfer request to SMMP in response to this recent Stewardship presentation.

Carl noted that a synopsis of his recent presentation, "Stewardship in Action," is posted on the parish website. However, Council expressed disappointment that there was no video made of his presentation for posting onto the parish website.

DAYBREAK TRANSITIONAL HOUSING MINISTRY FUNDRAISING PROPOSAL: Continuing its discussion from last month, Council expressed its approval of Daybreak Ministry's holding 1-2 parish-wide promotional events per year, as well as conducting a targeted direct phone/letter campaign to individual donors. These are needed to raise an estimated \$12,000 per year to continue with SMMP's transitional housing apartment agreement through Bridge Communities, along with an additional \$2,000 (to offset the 10% funding cut in the 2017-18 Parish Budget) for its transitional housing apartment agreement through Catholic Charities.

As the Stewardship Committee will help oversee parish fundraising projects, Daybreak's fundraising proposals and scheduling will also need approval by this committee. Council suggested that Daybreak also includes stories and photos of the transitional housing apartments to help "make it real" to the parish.

MINISTRY SUNDAY (5/21/17): Ministry Sunday on 5/21/17 is scheduled at the request of Sr. Madelyn and is already being advertised in the Sunday bulletins. Council recommended that the various ministry groups should clearly list their specific volunteer needs beforehand for which interested volunteers could then sign up vs. having volunteers indicate their interest for which there might not be any current need. Council also stressed the importance of ministry groups promptly responding to their new prospective volunteers, despite the summer months following shortly after Ministry Sunday. While the Parish Office provides the various ministry groups with names of interested volunteers obtained through Ministry Sunday, the ministry groups need to provide their own follow-up. Council Members and especially the Commission Representatives should encourage and promote good follow-up and feedback from their respective ministry groups.

Tom Cordaro noted that “After Mass Sign-Up’s” in the Narthex have been very effective for some of the Service Ministries, as held at various times throughout the year and announced beforehand at the respective Sunday Masses. Some of these ministry sign-up’s can be strategically timed for recruiting volunteers according to an immediate seasonal need. “After Mass Sign-Up’s” should be scheduled in advance by Mike Prus, Parish Business Manager.

“YEAR ONE” PARISHIONER INTERVIEWS: Tom Cordaro reviewed some data about the “Year One” parishioner interview summaries, which Council recently conducted and submitted. These included:

- 24 one-on-one parishioner interviews
 - 10 parishioner interviews conducted on a “walk-in” basis
- 35 parishioner responses submitted online
 - 17 online responses anonymously submitted, 4 of which were discarded due to “inappropriate” content and/or language

Based on the number of anonymous responses deemed as “inappropriate,” it was recommended that provisions for “anonymous” online submissions should no longer be offered.

Carl expressed how personally and spiritually valuable his experiences with parishioner interviews were for him.

JUNE COUNCIL MEETING (6/06/17): As Council President, Carl will maintain the “tradition” of hosting the June Council meeting at his home and invited Council to this on 6/06/17 (7 p.m.). He will send a meeting agenda in advance, along with an attendees’ food sign-up list – he and his wife will be providing beverages. Fr. Paul noted that he would be traveling out of country on this date.

“WHAT ARE WE HEARING FROM PARISHIONERS?” – DISCUSSION:

- The Mass prayer cards are falling apart. A reminder needs to be sent to Deacon Ken Miles about their replenishment (from new stock being kept in storage).
- At the request of Fr. Paul, parish bulletins are no longer being made available for pick-up before the Sunday Masses – this is due to many of them being read during Mass and then left behind in the pews after Mass. Although the Mass Greeters and/or Ushers are putting parish bulletins away after each of the Sunday Masses, a request will be made for their not being put away as quickly.
- The Parish Family Fun Night (4/22/17) had a great turnout, spanning all ages and also including some non-parishioner attendees.

FINAL “WHIP” AROUND: Comments included:

- “Good meeting” [as expressed by 5 attendees]
- “I’ll be gone in June -- tonight will be my last meeting. This has been a good experience.”
- “Good meeting. What a marvelous Easter this was.”
- “Brendan, good luck to you. I’m so proud of our parish.”
- “We accomplished a lot tonight.”
- “Good meeting – I will be away in June.”

CLOSING: Peggy Soeldner was thanked for attending tonight’s meeting, with hopes that her observations proved beneficial in her discernment for At-Large Member Representative. Julie Lomax then led Council in the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. Following this, the meeting ended at 9:13 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, at the home of Carl and Ingrid Van Dril, with details to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary



**SAINT MARGARET MARY PARISH
ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Tuesday, April 11, 2017**

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

Members Absent: None.

Also Attending: Norm Beauregard.

1. Opening Prayer: Led by Sue Schroeder.

2. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the March 14 meeting were approved “by acclamation”, without changes.

3. Discussion/Decision Items:

A. Parking Lot Maintenance

The commission welcomed Norm Beauregard to the conversation about the parking lot and concrete work planned or being studied by the Men’s Club. Tom Hill anticipates receiving a proposal from another contractor shortly, and Norm expects a proposal from Joe Jacksa also very soon. The scope of work as described by Briggs Paving will serve as the basis for the other proposals, while leaving open options for subtractions or additions to the work from other contractors. The group walked the parking lot and sidewalks, to study further the appropriate scope of the work anticipated for the summer. The group also reviewed the current status and projected future expenditures from our Repair & Replacement fund, which will finance the work.

B. Scheduling future meeting(s)

The commission agreed to meet again on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 7:30 PM.

4. Member Reports and Discussion:

A. Chuck Marquis: No report.

B. Bob Stezowski, Building Manager: No report.

C. Sue Schroeder, Finance: 1) Budgets from various ministry areas were requested and have been received in recent weeks. The Finance Committee meets next week to review the budget as a whole and prepare to submit to the Pastoral Council in early May. 2) This week the parish received an audit report from the diocesan Finance Office, in response to the audit in early February. A written response from the parish is due by early July.

D. Michael Prus, Business Manager: 1) Argo Electric indicated that they have received the needed equipment from their supplier to perform the work on the

parking lot light pole and fixtures in the Green Trails lot. Installation is expected soon.

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

F. Jeff Jameson, At Large Delegate: Jeff has information ready, and will meet with Sue to review Repair & Replacement projections related to HVAC equipment, for future financial planning.

G. Klaus Rummer: No report.

5. New Business: Mike shared a binder of historical information recently provided by Mark Boehlen, who participated in the Administration Commission for many years. This will be added to parish archives.

6. Evaluation: A fine meeting.

7. Closing Prayer: Led by Chuck Marquis.

- *Submitted by Mike Prus*

Christian Worship Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council April 2017

Open Items:

- CWC By-Laws amendments revisions continued discussion. A vote on the amendments is pending.
 - I would like to thank Barb Ryan for her persistence and tireless effort in getting the CWC By-Laws updated and distributed for review. I am responsible for letting this item linger unfinished for so long. Thanks to Barb, approval for the amended CWC By-Laws will be on the agenda at the next CWC meeting which will be scheduled for later this month.
- Review and improve the process of establishing Gift Bearers

CWC Chair:

- There was no CWC Meeting held in April.
- Attended the April Finance Committee meeting
- New Sunday mass schedule starts June 4, 2017: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM
- Thank you to all the CWC ministries for their efforts in providing beautiful liturgies at St. Margaret Mary this Lenten, Holy Week & Easter season.

Youth Altar Servers:

- Nothing to report

Family Altar Servers:

- Nothing to report

Art & Environment:

- Nothing to report

Bread Bakers:

- Nothing to report

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Nothing to report

Greeters:

- Greeters were provided for all Holy Week Services, and the additional Masses on Easter Sunday.
- Bulletins are no longer out before Mass. They are made available after Communion.
- Establishing and scheduling Greeter teams for the new Mass schedule starting in June.

Lectors:

- Along with other ministries, spoke with the Sophomore class about the opportunity to join the lector or greeter ministry after their confirmation.

Linen Launderers:

- Nothing to report

Liturgy Development:

- Nothing to report.

Music:

- There have been four new members join the 10:45 choir in 2017.
- Contemporary Choir (10:45) will sing at the 10:00 AM mass on Sundays starting in June.
- Lumen Christi Choir (9:00) will sing at the 8:00 AM mass on Sundays starting in June.

Sacristans:

- All sacristans have been informed of the Mass time changes coming in June. Unlike the current system, where sacristans overlap with Mass responsibilities, with the new Mass schedule each sacristan will set-up/clean-up for 1 Mass only. This may pose a problem for 12pm Mass, as we only have 2 sacristans for that Mass time, and one of those sacristans performs clean-up only. Working on recruiting new sacristans for that Mass and/or convincing the current sacristan to come early and set-up.

Gift Bearers:

- Nothing to report

Submitted by Brian Pelz

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**Christian Service Commission
Monthly Report to Parish Council
May 2017**

Bereavement:

We do not have anything to report this month as our next meeting is in May.
(Submitted by Patti McGehee)

Blood Drive: No report.
(Dan Patt on behalf of the Knights of Columbus)

Boy Scouts (Troop 507): No report.
(Submitted by Ramona Vaikutis)

Charitable Contributions: Nothing to report.
(Joe Straka)

Christmas Giving Tree: Nothing to report.
(Tom Cordaro)

Comfort Care Ministry (Funeral Luncheons, Emergency Meals): There has been no activity this month. Kathy and Carrie spoke regarding letting parishioners know about this great ministry. Kathy is finalizing a brief bulletin announcement. Carrie is also working with Kathy to finalize instructions for the SMMP deacons and staff regarding informing families and initiating plans for funeral luncheons.
(Submitted by Kathy Kalina and Carrie Tilton)

Cub Scouts (Pack 507):

April: Good showing for the forest preserve clean up at Herrick Lake, April 15th. Dens 6 & 9 planted a 2nd Maple tree on SMMP grounds. 14 families attended the Camp Tecumseh Overnight, April 29th.

May: Pack rocket launch, May 7th. Advancement Pack meeting, May 18th.
(Submitted by Tim Tilton)

Daybreak Transitional Housing:

We approved a budget with a 10% reduction for the new year from our current year's approved budget. This money was allocated to Charitable Contributions (CC) so they would not have to have their budget reduced. The caveat attached to these funds is that Daybreak is allowed to fund raise and is able to raise enough funds to cover these expenses. Our expenses are "actual" obligations that we are required to pay and thus if we cannot raise the funds, we will alert CC that the money given to CC must revert to Daybreak. We will do this sometime in April or May of 2018.
(Submitted by Pat McAuliffe)

Knights of Columbus: No report.
(Dan Patt)

Men's Club:

58 members and 1 new member attend our April meeting. Pete Kinsella, Senior Development Officer Catholic Charities was our guest speaker.

We completed our April in Parish Project at 2 homes of our parishioners.

Attended the 8:15 Mass on Saturday April 22nd.

Our Family Fun Night had the largest participation ever for this event. All enjoyed an evening of good pizza, games, laughter, and music.
(Submitted by Gus Fischer)

Nursery:

Starting in June, the Sunday Nursery will only be offered at the 10am mass. Feedback will be requested/welcome to see if families would prefer a different mass (or the addition of a specific mass). Carrie and Cailin will meet again in August to discuss the options going forward.

Cailin plans to confirm this shortened babysitting time with Cia Lester, the salaried babysitter, as soon as possible. Cailin will also put a message in the bulletin regarding the change in times, welcoming mass time feedback and inviting interested volunteer babysitters (much needed).
(Submitted by Carrie Tilton, confirmed by Cailin Ramirez)

Pastoral Care: No report.
(Fred Straub)

Peace & Justice Advisory Working Group:

The committee is making plans for next year's parish social mission weekends.

Refugee Support Group:

Our refugee support group hosted a Muslim-Catholic dialogue on Lent and Ramadan. We had over 70 people in attendance and a lot of positive feedback as well. Plans for future programs in the fall are being made. The group decided to hold off until the fall to organize a cross-cultural training workshop as part of our forming a mentoring group in support of a refugee family.

Earth Care Sub-Committee:

Some bulletin articles and resources were published in the bulletin in celebration of Earth Day. In addition an Earth Day display was placed in the narthex.

(Submitted by Tom Cordaro)

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

We will have Mother's Day cards available the weekend of May 6-7 after all the Masses except the 12:30. Proceeds benefit Project Love.

In June, we will have Father's Day cards available after all the Masses the weekend of June 10-11.
(Submitted by Mary Ann Cronauer)

St. Vincent de Paul:

Business is down which is probably a good thing! Helped 2 families we have helped before with rent or utilities, plus the usual food and gas vouchers.

(Submitted by Chuck Hinds)

September Club:

On Wednesday afternoon April 5, 2017, 23 members gathered in the parish center at noon for a pizza lunch.

We opened the meeting with a prayer. April birthdays and anniversaries were recognized. All present were encouraged to remember those who are ill in their prayers. Watch for the announcement for details of our May meeting in the weekly bulletin.

(Submitted by Ann Patt)

Sharing Parish:

Applications for tuition assistance are due by April 30th, and appropriations will be made in early May.

The 19th annual Scholarship Fund Garage Sale is scheduled for Friday, June 23rd and Saturday, June 24. Donations will be accepted from Saturday, June 17th through Wednesday, June 21st.

(Submitted by Martha Rose)

Reports Compiled and Submitted by Carrie Tilton



**CEC Ministry Reports
For May 2017**

Adult Education: Sr. Madelyn Gould

BIBLE STUDY - Sr. Marianne is creating the materials for the Fall series

BUSINESS BREAKFAST - The committee meets Wed. evening to continue planning the 2017-18 series

EVENING ENRICHMENT - This week I had a brainstorming session with some of the committee members. We mapped out a way to offer the weekend retreat talks on the Wednesday evenings of Lent. Not everyone is able to attend a weekend retreat and the material is worthwhile for everyone to hear. This plan will help more people engage with the material.

MORNING ENRICHMENT - Fr. Paul gave a Lenten presentation on April 9th – Walking Jesus' Journey in My Shoes. Well attended and well received. The planning committee meets May 3rd to plan the 2017-2018 programs.

RETREATS - "Adventures in Contemplation" had their last session on Saturday, April 29th. It was an all day workshop/retreat on the "How We Treat One Another Matters." 25 attended the session presented by Char Dillon. The planning committee meets on May 15th to plan the 2017-18 sessions.

Thirteen women are continuing in the CRHP process. On May 7th they will begin the Discernment process.

Mary Kay Slowikowski is scheduled to give a presentation on "Grace" on May 10th

The next Day of Quiet is May 19th. Presently, materials are being prepared for that day.

RCIA - Seven adults were brought into full communion at the Easter Vigil. A new class has begun with one gentleman registered to date.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION - I continue to see 12 for spiritual direction

OTHER - S. Madelyn is assisting the Parish Council member is discerning two new members for the Council.

PreK–Grade 5: Sue Davey

First Communions are Saturday, April 29th at 5:00 and Sunday, April 30th at 12:30 as well. The final service is Sunday, May 7th at 12:30.

The last RE class will be Saturday, May 6th.

So far about 25 catechists have signed up to return next fall.

Youth Ministry: Dan Lawler

We planned a social outing to a Christian music concert on Friday, April 21st. We had 10 teens join us, several from our Peer Ministers, who really enjoyed themselves. That same weekend, we moved our regular Peer Ministry meeting to the Open Mosque Day at the Islamic Center of Naperville for a tour and discussion with their youth on Sunday. It was a very positive experience between our two groups and a great learning opportunity.

We have had our final Junior High and High School Chosen sessions for this year. Overall, this has been a very positive year for catechesis in Youth Ministry. We are looking at updating some of our resources and activities for both groups for next year. We will also be focusing on cultivating volunteers to help cover all of our groups.

We are finishing our interviews with confirmandi this week and finalizing our preparations for Confirmation. We will have over 90 sophomores confirmed this year with Bishop Siegel on May 12th.

This year, our summer service trip with Young Neighbors In Action will be going to Springfield, KY the week of June 18-24. So far, we have 25 people registered which is the most we have ever had. They are excited about the chance to learn more about Catholic Social Teaching and serve in that community. We will be attempting to raise funds over the next few weeks to help offset the cost of the trip.

Becca Siar, our Echo apprentice, will be finishing with us over the next few weeks. Her last scheduled day at St. Margaret Mary will be May 26th. She will return to Notre Dame later in the summer for exams and graduation. We will be continuing with the Echo program for the next two years and should find out who our new apprentice will be soon. St. Elizabeth Seton and Holy Spirit will also be participating in Echo with us.

All Saints Catholic Academy: Anne Marie-Cronin

ASCA Offers Tuition Transfer Grant

As an incentive for new students and their families who elect to transfer to All Saints in Grades 1 - 7 from any private, public, charter or home school, we will be participating in the **Tuition Transfer Grant Program** from the Diocese of Joliet. This grant is extended over two school years for a total of \$1,500 (\$1,000 for year one and \$500 for year two), and will be applied to offset the current school tuition. At All Saints Catholic Academy, we take pride in providing a Catholic education that lays the foundation for students to make right choices. We also believe that students in our school belong to something bigger than themselves thanks to their understanding that all that they do is directed toward an increased knowledge and love of God.

ASCA Alumni Reunion - Thursday, May 25

Calling all **All Saints Alumni from the Classes of 2009 through 2016**. We are having a **Pizza Party Reunion at ASCA on Thursday, May 25 from 5 - 7 pm**. If your graduate has not been contacted and would like more information, please contact Patty Bajek at pbajek@ascacademy.org, and we will connect you. Come hungry and ready to catch up!!!

8th Grade Students Take First in Crosstown Debate

All Saints 8th graders participated in the 7th Annual Crosstown Debate on Monday, April 17 and went head to head with students from SS Peter and Paul and St. Raphael. Students competed in literary debates over three books that were read in English class this school year. They also took part in two team public debates.

The ASCA team bested the second-place SS Peter and Paul team by 25 points. All Saints students took 1st and 2nd place in debate, with a third ASCA student tying for 3rd place. Small team awards were won by many of our students.

Reports Compiled and Submitted by Julie Lomax
