

**St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL**  
**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**January 2, 2018**

**Council Members Present:** Tom Cordaro, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Mary Oliphant, Brian Pelz, Sam Schroeder, Dave Schwartz, Kristen Slevnik, Peggy Soeldner, Carrie Tilton, Carl Van Dril, Don Wenig

**Council Members Absent:** Jim Chitwood, Julie Lomax

**OPENING AND PRAYER:** Council President Carl Van Dril called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the COR Center, welcoming everyone back to the first Pastoral Council meeting of the New Year. Peggy Soeldner offered an opening prayer.

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2017 MEETING MINUTES:**

Following discussion about some more recently submitted change requests, **Dave Schwartz moved to approve the revised minutes from December 5, 2017, with Don Wenig seconding, and the Council approving these.** The minutes, along with Commission reports, will now be posted onto the Council's web page. Council Secretary Peggy Soeldner will provide a summary of the minutes for the parish bulletin.

**PARISH VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER (1/13/18):** Co-Chair Dave Schwartz provided updates about the Appreciation Dinner, also noting that his Co-Chair, Jim Chitwood, was absent tonight. Dave requested that every Council member sign up for work assignments online through SignUp Genius, with his also noting that additional volunteer workers (including spouses and teens) are needed to help throughout the evening. While some parishioners are already signed up to attend this event, Dave requested that the Commission and Committee Heads especially invite their volunteers to this.

The Men's Club will be helping with band set-up, along with beverage provision and beverage serving. Former Council member Victoria Kosirog will be heading up decorations, with event set-up starting on Friday night (1/12/18). Although parishioners are optionally signing up to bring either appetizers and/or desserts, it was suggested that a larger amount of desserts vs. appetizers from parishioners would be needed this year (since bruschetta appetizers will already be provided through Angeli's catering). Dave requested that Council members contact either him or Jim throughout the week ahead about any other details, questions, or lists of additional needed items.

**PARISH LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY GATHERING (2/03/18):** Tom Cordaro reviewed plans for the upcoming Leadership Community Gathering on 2/03/18 in the COR Center, starting with 8:15 a.m. Mass and ending by 3:00 p.m. Tasks will include the following:

- Reviewing the Parish Leadership Community's journey during the past few years;
- Choosing the next 3-year Parish Theme and Calling [ retaining, modifying, or creating new ones];

- Reviewing recommended changes to the Leadership Community's "Year Two" and "Year Three" discernment cycle work.

Shortly after the Parish Appreciation Dinner, Tom will send out materials to read and study, along with a preparatory worksheet, prior to the 2/03/18 Gathering.

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:** Carl reported that the Stewardship Committee had met in December and that they will meet again tomorrow night (1/03/18).

According to Don Wenig, Parish Business Manager Mike Prus was recently contacted about the need to also include information in the parish bulletin that reflects and communicates to parishioners about the parish deficit, as part of the collection data reporting. The parish bulletins should be including this additional information starting in January. Don had forwarded to Council the year-to-date collection figures through 12/24/17, as furnished by Mike Prus. It was noted that this data did not yet include collections data for Christmas (12/25/17), with Mike also noting that the Parish Bookkeeper is currently on vacation.

Carl reported that the Stewardship Committee plans to launch a Parish Annual Appeal in January, with a mailing to all registered parishioner households. This will include both a letter from Fr. Paul, along with a response card about giving commitment. There will be some follow-up announcements made at the Sunday Masses about this Parish Annual Appeal, with efforts made to clarify that this will be a parish appeal (and not the Diocesan Annual Appeal, the latter due to take place in February). **Council was in consensus about the Parish Annual Appeal to be launched in January 2018 by the Stewardship Committee.**

Fr. Paul noted that he would like to send an end-of-year contribution statement to all parishioners – not just to those who specifically request a tax statement.

The Finance Committee will meet on 1/17/18, and interested Council members are also invited to attend this. Council members should contact Finance Committee Head Sue Schroeder about their planned attendance in advance.

**NOMINATIONS/ RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE:** Co-Chair Mary Oliphant had sent an updated timeline about the recruitment process for new Council members (to begin serving in 2018-19). Council reviewed some of the existing names tonight of previously nominated candidates, who might be more ready to discern about Council membership at this point of time. In addition, new parishioners are also invited to consider candidacy for this. Each current Council and Parish Leadership Staff member is encouraged to start recruiting and promoting Council membership, with requested nominations to be submitted to either Mary Oliphant or Peggy Soeldner.

Nominations for Youth Representatives should be coordinated with Dan Lawler, Director of Youth Ministry.

*Following this, Council took a break from 8:00-8:08 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Peggy Soeldner. Peggy was thanked for these.*

**ART & ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR:** Brian Pelz, Christian Worship Commission Head, requested information from Fr. Paul about the process needed for finding and hiring a new Art & Environment Coordinator. This part-time position was very recently vacated by Courtney Murtaugh, who had filled this role for the past two years. Both Fr. Paul and Brian had commented on Courtney having shown a very tasteful sense of art and environment, along with knowledge of the liturgical year.

While information about this open position was recently published in the past two parish bulletins, no additional job postings about this have appeared outside of SMMP. Fr. Paul noted that this position needs to be “reinvented,” especially due to the parish’s current budget deficit; and that the candidates should also have a good knowledge of liturgy, the ability to work with staff, as well as skill to organize and coordinate volunteers. Fr. Paul recommended the following: that the Liturgy Committee should work on creating a job profile for this position; talk more with Deacon Ken Miles and the Diocese about this; and then consider posting the vacancy through the Diocese.

Brian expressed concerns about the need to fill this position soon, especially with the upcoming Lent/ Easter season.

**COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR:** Carl met with Dan Lawler and Echo Apprentice Kaitlyn Sica in December to review the matrix of suggested duties/responsibilities for a part-time Communications Coordinator, which Carl had sent to Council in advance. Tom Cordaro will also review this matrix with parish staff. The Communications Committee had previously developed this matrix for a Communications Coordinator position during the past three years, although this part-time position was put “on hold” due to parish budget constraints. Fr. Paul stated that there is currently some funding available from an “angel donor” for this part-time position, with the need to now move forward on this.

Carl had also added a suggested timeline and hourly compensation rate for this part-time position. It was suggested that the parish contact some of the local colleges in search of eligible candidates.

**FACEBOOK – SMMP’S CHRISTMAS “WELCOME” CAMPAIGN:** An “Easter Welcome to SMMP” postcard mailing campaign was done last year. Last year’s postcards were sent to approximately 4,000 households at a cost of \$1,400.

Carl reported that a “Christmas Welcome to SMMP” was recently sent out on Facebook within a 10-mile radius of SMMP for “very little money.” Although statistics are not yet available about this, he hopes to receive this data soon from Dan Lawler. Carl termed this as being a “new and exciting communication method for very little money.”

## **COMMISSION REPORTS:**

**Administration:** There was no report received and no representative in attendance tonight.

**Christian Worship (CWC):** [*Christian Worship Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council – January 2018* was sent in advance by Brian Pelz, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Brian Pelz, CWC Representative, acknowledged former Art & Environment Coordinator Courtney Murtaugh's excellent work – she will be missed! He likewise gave a "shout out" to the Worship Ministries for "their hard work and dedication in presenting beautiful Advent and Christmas Masses and celebrations at SMMP."

**Christian Service (CSC):** [*Christian Service Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council – January 2, 2018* was sent in advance and then updated by Carrie Tilton. This updated copy is shown hereto].

Carrie Tilton, CSC Representative, noted that Joe Straka was retiring from Charitable Contributions Committee after many years of excellent service. Fr. Paul requested a "check in" report of all members on the Charitable Contributions Committee. Specifically, he would like to talk to them when they reassemble.

Council discussed the need for the parish to re-think about whether or not it would like to pursue entering into a new Sharing Parish relationship with another parish within our Diocese, with a parish in another country, or with none at all. [Please see the "Sharing Parish" section in the Christian Service Commission Report, p. 10]. Meanwhile, SMMP continues its relationship with Sacred Heart Parish and St. Nicholas Parish, both in Aurora, for SMMP's Christmas Giving Tree Program; and SMMP's Garage Sale continues to benefit the Scholarship Fund for former Archbishop Romero School students, who continue to attend Catholic grammar schools [following Archbishop Romero School's closure].

In February, Council will review and discuss its various ministries which are "struggling."

**Christian Education (CEC):** [*Christian Education Commission (CEC) – January 2018* reports are shown hereto].

Julie Lomax, CEC Representative, was absent from tonight's meeting. There were no questions or discussion tonight pertaining to the CEC.

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:** Kristen Slevnik, Peer Minister, reported that Peer Ministry is actively planning for the Sophomore Retreat. She also noted that many of her fellow youth are "spiritual but not religious." Youth Representative Sam

Schroeder seconded this. Carl Van Dril highlighted the importance of inviting other teens to SMMP's activities, etc.

The Youth Representatives confirmed the importance of expanding SMMP's communication to Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

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

- Fr. Paul reported receiving some nice letters and cards at Christmastime, expressing how much their senders enjoyed our parish.
  
- Carl reported that he recently responded by letter to an upset parishioner. In this, he reiterated that the parishioner's concern about Parish Social Missions had been brought to the Pastoral Council's attention, and Carl's response had apparently satisfied this parishioner.

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

- “I liked tonight's Youth input.”
- “Thanks. Good meeting.”
- “Good meeting.”
- “See you on January 12<sup>th</sup>.”
- “Good discussion.”
- “Good meeting.”
- “Good meeting.”
- “Carl gets the prize for timing tonight's meeting!”
- “Interesting meeting – some fresh ideas expressed.”
- “Good meeting.”

**CLOSING:** Peggy Soeldner offered a closing prayer. Following this, the meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

***The next meeting will be held on February 6, 2018, in the Upper Room, starting at 7:00 p.m.***

***Opening/Closing Prayer (February): Jim Chitwood***  
***Refreshments (February): Jim Chitwood***

Respectfully submitted,  
Marlyn Ligner Steury  
Recording Secretary

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**Christian Worship Commission**  
**Monthly Report to Parish Council**  
**January 2018**

**Open Items:**

- Review and improve the process of establishing Gift Bearers

**CWC Chair:**

- There was no CWC Meeting in December 2017.
- Thank you to all of the ministries for their hard work and dedication to presenting beautiful Advent and Christmas masses and celebrations.
- Courtney Murtaugh has moved on to other opportunities. Thank you, Courtney, for your style, dedication and work here at St. Margaret Mary. All the best going forward.

**Youth Altar Servers:**

- Nothing to report

**Family Altar Servers:**

- Nothing to report

**Art & Environment:**

- Looking for a part time A&E Coordinator.

**Baptism Assistants:**

- 2018 Baptisms will begin on January 14.
- The Knights of Columbus would like to request a permanent bulletin announcement for the Knights of Columbus Family Rosary Service that is offered in the Chapel after the Noon mass on the last Sunday of each month. It could be added to the regular marriage preparation and baptism announcements that appear every week in the bulletin.

**Bread Bakers:**

- Nothing to report

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

- Nothing to report

**Greeters:**

- Nothing to report

**Lectors:**

- The lector team had enough volunteers to cover all Masses during Advent and Christmas.

**Linen Launderers:**

- Nothing to report

**Liturgy Development:**

- Hospitality Desk proposal discussed at Liturgy and CWC meetings.
  - Details planning phase: procuring a desk; establishing training job responsibilities and training materials.
  - It will be placed in the entryway of the library pending follow up from the military ministry.
  - Tom reached out to Candy Rice to discuss moving the military poster. The Parish Center was suggested as a possible location.
  - Communicating with Gail and Loretta to get suggestions as to what items/materials/forms...they would think we should have at this desk using their daily experience as a guide.
- The sound system was checked and fixed in time for the Christmas weekend celebrations.

**Music:**

- Nothing to report

**Sacristans:**

- Nothing to report

**Gift Bearers:**

- Follow up: Brian will ask Pastoral Council to sign up.  
[https://www.smmmp.com/worship/gift\\_bearer\\_signup.php](https://www.smmmp.com/worship/gift_bearer_signup.php) See Fig 1.

Submitted by Brian Pelz


Fig 1.

***Do you want to be a gift bearer?***

- Is your family having a special gathering some weekend?
- Did you want to mark your child's First Communion or Confirmation a little early?
- Did you always want to be a gift bearer?

The Worship Commission has a great and easy way to have you and your friends or family sign up to bring up the gifts during Mass. We are really hoping that almost all parishioners sign up at least once each year. The signup and steps are very easy:

- Sign up for a Mass by going to <http://www.smmmp.com/>, and navigating to Mass & Sacraments/Gift Bearer Signup. That will lead you to a link to a signup spreadsheet.
- Alternatively, you can call the parish office, 630-369-0777, to sign up.
- If you change your mind you can easily delete your name or call the parish office a few days before the weekend. Please be sure to keep email or phone contact information so we can remind you or let you know of any changes.
- Groups should be 3-5 people.
- Singles and couples are encouraged to sign up, but someone else may be added to make the group 3-5.
- Check in with a greeter before Mass.
- Sit where you like in church. When the collection begins, go to the back of the church and follow the greeter's instructions.



Being a gift bearer is a great way to more actively participate in Mass. Please consider signing up!

Submitted by Brian Pelz

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**Christian Service Commission  
 Monthly Report to Parish Council  
 January 2, 2018**

**Bereavement:**

The Bereavement Ministry helped with the Annual Remembrance Mass held Dec 14. We heard a lot of positive feedback from our parishioners and many stayed afterwards to talk with one another in the upper room. The dove ornaments which were made by our ministry for the families to take home to put on their trees were very special to everyone there.  
 (Submitted by Patti McGehee)

**Blood Drive:**

Activities for December 2017

The Knights are still in the planning stage for the next Parish Blood Drive to be held in the spring of 2018.  
(Submitted by Dan Patt on behalf of the Knights of Columbus)

**Boy Scouts (Troop 507):** No report  
(Ramona Vaikutis)

**Charitable Contributions: *\*\*Thank you for your years of service, Joe!\*\****

The December meeting of the Charitable Contributions Committee (CCC) took place on Tuesday December 12, 2017. The second Tuesday of each month at 7:15 pm has been the CCC regular meeting time.

*Actions Taken:*

Information concerning 1 final organization was reviewed and the request was voted upon by CCC members, resulting in an award of \$2,000 being granted at the December meeting. This award was the final \$2,000 remaining in the \$40,500 budget for this fiscal year, so the total of this year's \$40,500 CCC budget was expended by the end of the December meeting. CCC capped an award to any one organization within this fiscal year at a maximum of \$2,500. Depending upon the amount of next year's CCC budget, this cap may or may not remain the same in the future.

*Next Meeting:*

A specific date has not yet been set for the next meeting. The Committee will likely meet following the spring budget meeting when CCC knows the amount with which it has to work. This meeting time will be used to finalize decisions regarding next year's CCC procedures and leadership.

*Additional Information:*

After many years on the CCC, Joe Straka is retiring from service in the group. The Committee looks forward to new members joining next year to take part in this very important charitable work. Many thanks to all the dedicated members with whom I have served.

Candido Pereira will attend any necessary meetings of Christian Service in the future (including the budget meeting in the spring,) but Pam Cieslak will produce the CCC meeting reports to Christian Service.

(Submitted by Joe Straka)

**Christmas Giving Tree:**

This year's program was a great success. We had over 225 families participate in purchasing gifts and gift cards. This is 50 more than last year.

(Submitted by Tom Cordaro)

**Comfort Care Ministry (Funeral Luncheons, Emergency Meals):** No report

(Kathy Kalina)

**Cub Scouts (Pack 507):**

Cub Master - Tim Tilton, Committee Chairman - Brian Burgner

December Activities:

Caroled at 1 nursing home and held the annual Christmas party at the church (Dec 21)

January Activities:

Pinewood Derby in the Parish Center (check in Jan 20<sup>th</sup>; event Jan 21<sup>st</sup>)

(Submitted by Tim Tilton)

**Daybreak Transitional Housing:**

It has been an eventful year. We expanded our families to two; we held a fundraiser-Trivia for a Cause, both to raise funds to cover the cost of a second family and to increase the parishioners' awareness of our ministry; we designed our own brochure describing our ministry, with pictures of our families; and we have received generous donations to support our families.

Wonderful new mentors joined our team to coach our new family. We are blessed to belong to such a supportive community.



(Submitted by Pat McAuliffe)

### **Knights of Columbus:**

Activities for December 2017

- Knights held their annual Christmas Party with Knights of Columbus Councils from St. Raphael's and Saints Peter and Paul on December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Knights assisted helping the Deacons with Baptisms on December 10<sup>th</sup> after the 12 Noon Mass.
- Knights helped with Hospitality Sunday on December 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Knights helped with the set-up of the Christmas decorations in the Church on December 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Knights helped with the clean-up and dirty laundry collection at PADS and delivery to the Edward Hospital Laundry on Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Knights awarded the winners of the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest at All Saints Academy on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Because of the many outstanding entries, 10 awards were presented instead of the original 5 planned. Two students from St. Margaret Mary Parish were among the winners. Their names and posters will be in a forthcoming weekly bulletin.
- Knights held their monthly business/social meeting on Thursday December 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Knights will be sponsoring and leading the Family Rosary Prayer Service after the 12 Noon Mass in the Chapel on the last Sunday of every month for all Parish members. The next one will be on Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Our SMMP Knights of Columbus Council 16011 received the Double Star Council Award from the Supreme Council for the 2016-2017 Fraternal Year. Of the 46 Councils in Illinois we were only one of 5 so recognized.

(Submitted by Dan Patt)

### **Men's Club:**

The SMMP Mens Club January meeting will be on the 23rd of January because of the Parish Mission. Our speaker will be John Jeries on cyber-security. We will meet in February on our usual third Tuesday meeting night. The Christmas gifts from the Mens Club were distributed.

Also, sidewalk snow removal this past weekend, provision of beverages for the upcoming Appreciation Dinner (including successful solicitation of volunteers to help with set up and clean up), Fr. Pat spoke to a packed house at our December meeting (with a great dinner provided by Roy Taylor and kitchen crew), provide a crew to work Loaves and Fishes later this month, and provided labor and "engineering" expertise for Christmas set up.

(Submitted by Tom Zakosek with additions by Dave Schwartz)

**Nursery:** No report

(Cailin Ramirez)

**Pastoral Care:** No report

(Fred Straub)

### **Peace & Justice Advisory Working Group:**

Plans for the 13th annual World Peace Day Interfaith Prayer Service are well underway. This year the service will take place on Sunday, January 7th at 2:00 pm at the Wentz Concert Hall on the campus of North Central College. **REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP:** With the money raised from our last parish social mission weekend, the group has begun working with Exodus World Service to identify refugee families in the area who are in need of a "care package." We are also using some of the money to fund a conversational English program for new refugees in DuPage County. **EARTH CARE COMMITTEE:** The committee is doing Christmas light recycling again this year. So far we have collected one large box of lights. We expect to have more than two boxes of lights collected this year. The last day of the collection will be January 12th.

(Submitted by Tom Cordaro)

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

Awaiting final report from Waterleaf regarding the baby bottle fundraiser.  
(Submitted by Mary Ann Cronauer)

**St. Vincent de Paul:**

The annual clothing drive is Jan 6-7, 2018.  
(Mark Oliphant)

**September Club:**

On Wednesday afternoon December 6, 2017, 33 members and guests gathered in the parish center for our Christmas Celebration. Father Paul led us in prayer. We enjoyed a catered lunch & desserts.

All present were encouraged to remember those who are ill in their prayers. Joan Vinkler is suffering many health issues. December birthdays and anniversaries were recognized.

Our collection for the Giving Tree was \$156.50. Christmas entertainment was provided by John Kleise. Members enjoyed singing of Christmas Carols.

There is no January meeting.  
(Submitted by Ann Patt)

**Sharing Parish:**

Since the last report, a very generous donation has been made to the Sharing Parish Scholarship Fund.

On Sunday, December 3rd, some of our current Aurora scholarship recipients and recent graduates expressed thoughts of appreciation at the 10 am and 12 pm Liturgies for both the value of and the financial support for their Catholic grammar school education experience. In between Masses we shared lunch with them and their families in the Upper Room.

While we were previously associated with both Sacred Heart and St. Nicholas Parishes in Aurora, the involvement with both parishes tapered off. Largely due to the closing of their shared Archbishop Oscar Romero Grammar School and also other changes in the parishes, they stopped participating with us and responding to us. SACRED HEART AND ST. NICHOLAS ARE NO LONGER OUR SHARING PARISHES, nor have they been for the past several years; Pastoral Council was duly apprised of this change. Efforts to establish a new sharing parish relationship with a parish in the Joliet Diocese were not successful, but we continue to share through tuition assistance, Garage Sale opportunities and services, distribution of Garage Sale remainders and any other goods available, and active ongoing support of other SMMP organizations.

When Romero School closed, we invited any former Romero students who wished to attend any other Aurora Catholic grammar school to apply to us for tuition assistance. In order to obtain in-parish tuition rates, they joined the parishes where they were attending school, and we have supported students in five different grammar schools. Applications were sent to new students on the recommendations of the principals. A number of our grammar school graduates have enrolled in Aurora Central Catholic High School, but, in realistic consideration of funds available, we limit financial assistance to grammar school students.

(Submitted by Martha Rose)

**Reports Compiled and Submitted by Carrie Tilton**

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## **Christian Education Commission (CEC) January 2018**

### **Religious Education – K to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Parents of K-8 children in our daytime programs were invited to an Advent preparation program. Caitlin Sica prepared programs for each week of Advent helping parents to reflect on the season and provided ideas for home use. Refreshments were served. Attendance was poor.

We held an Advent Service at the end of each class. Children gathered in the library for the service. Our 4<sup>th</sup> graders prepared ornaments to build our Jesse tree.

Forty children participated in our Christmas Eve Children's mass. Both the church and the narthex were filled.

First Communion information will be mailed in early January. The next blessing rite will be the weekend of January 13/14. The final parent sacramental retreat will be Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Youth Ministry**

This year's Operation Wrap toy drive was higher thanks to the contributions from the Religious Education families in addition to our junior high families. Sgt. Maurice Taylor distributed the donations to Chicago area hospitals and shelters for Christmas.

Our Cookies and Carols event was a success again this year! We had many volunteers including musicians, singers, readers, and setup and cleanup.

We are hosting the annual Youth Ministry Deanery Speaker on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm and at St. Thomas the Apostle at 7:30 pm. Roy Petitfils is a national speaker and a licensed counselor. He will also speak for an adults only event on Monday night at 7:30 pm at Sts. Peter and Paul focused on Helping Hurting Teens. More information can be found on our website.

### **Adult Faith Formation**

**BIBLE STUDY** -Bible Study will resume on January 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be studying Colossians and Ephesians

**SATURDAY MORNING LIVE!** - John Blumberg will speak on Letting Go....on Sat Jan 20<sup>th</sup>. All are invited.

**EVENING ENRICHMENT** – Fr. Lawrence spoke to a group of 25 on the Christmas Story Retold. FR. Paul will enlighten us on the Enneagram on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the COR Center

MORNING ENRICHMENT – Marcia Mackenbrock and Sr. Madelyn shared their reflections on “Treasures of the Nativity: in Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. Thirty were in attendance. On January 10<sup>th</sup> Bridget Sperduto will speak about “Finding Peace in the Chaos.”

Sixty are attending ‘Adventures in Contemplation!’ Al Gustafson is facilitating the 8 month program held in the Upper Room. The second semester will begin on January 21<sup>st</sup> with a five hour retreat day in the Upper Room

RETREATS: At present, thirteen women are preparing to give the CRHP retreat in January. Recruitment is underway. To date, twelve have registered. Discussion is underway regarding the future of CRHP at SMMP. This discussion is occurring due to low attendance at the retreats.

Eight attended the At-Home Retreat in November.

Registration is underway for the Winter Weekend Retreat in Mundelein. Al Gustafson and Sr. Madelyn are the presenters. The Retreat is titled PRAY ALL WAYS. Presentations include:

- Prayer: Ever-Changing (Different stages of prayer)
- Praying on Empty (How to get through the dry times in prayer)
- Praying the Jesus Prayer (How to stay connected to Jesus throughout my day)
- Praying the Examen (Finding God in my everyday life)

The Women’s Retreat is Feb. 23-25. Men’s Retreat is March 16-18

PARISH MISSION: The Mission will take place January 14-16. Fr, Ron Hoye will be the presenter. Title: “Pray, Serve, Be Kind. Let Go”

RCIA – We have only one catechumen this year – Max Leightman. He will be studying the sacraments during January.

OTHER: Women’s Cafe continues to meet monthly with 15-20 attending. Response has been positive.

**All Saints Catholic Academy**

No report

Reports Compiled and Submitted by Julie Lomax.

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