

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
March 6, 2018

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

Council Members Absent: Peggy Soeldner

Parish Leadership Community Member Present: Adrian Jaworski

OPENING AND PRAYER: Council President Carl Van Dril called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room. Mary Oliphant led the opening prayer.

LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY – DRAFT REVIEW OF PARISH CALLING: Julie Lomax led tonight’s discussion about wording changes to the draft document about the parish calling, with Council and Adrian Jaworski also participating in this. Julie noted that, following the Parish Leadership Gathering on 2/03/18, an Ad Hoc committee had already met twice to work on this wording. This Ad Hoc committee included Julie, Tom Cordaro, Catilyn Sica, and Mary Oliphant. Council was in consensus tonight about the wording changes discussed for the new parish theme draft document.

Tom noted that the next step needed is to create an accompanying “tag line” for the new parish mission statement, with plans to continue working on this during the initial part (for 10-15 minutes) of the April Council meeting. He will collect ideas submitted to him shortly and will then send out this information to the Parish Leadership Community within several days before to the April meeting.

Following this, Adrian was dismissed from tonight’s meeting and was thanked for his participation tonight.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2018 MEETING MINUTES:

Carl Van Dril moved to approve the minutes from February 6, 2018, with one editing request correction. Julie Lomax seconded this, with the Council approving. The minutes, along with Commission reports, will now be posted onto the Council’s web page. Council Recording Secretary Marlyn Steury noted that Mike Prus will now be posting these minutes onto the Council’s web page, his taking over this task from Jim Krema (who had done this for over a decade). Council Secretary Peggy Soeldner will provide a summary of the minutes for the parish bulletin.

PARISH “BIG DAY OF SERVICE” FOR 2018-19: Julie Lomax shared data from the parish’s initial “Big Day of Service,” which was held on 11/18/17. This included:

- Approximately 125 volunteers;
- 50 volunteers working within the parish facilities and approximately 100 volunteers working off-site and/or both on- and off-site;

- and \$245 received in donations, with \$210 used for this day (including food for lunch, Ronald McDonald House at Edward Hospital, and items to fill the baskets for Youth 360 Services).

While there appears to be much interest in holding a second Parish “Big Day of Service” in 2018-19, Julie and her Co-Chair Carrie Tilton noted the need to establish a committee for this, ideally with 5-6 members, to advertise, coordinate, and follow up on this second year’s service day. Their recommendation included the following committee leadership: a leader; 2-3 coordinators for parish-based volunteer activities; 2-3 coordinators for off-site volunteer activities; an advertising coordinator; and a volunteer sign-up coordinator (continuing with the online Sign-Up Genius system). Having represented their respective commissions on Council (Julie for CEC and Carrie for CSC), they both felt that the parish service day incorporated goals for Education and Service. The initial idea for such a service day originated from numerous parent requests obtained from a parent survey conducted by the CEC; and the initial service date had coincided with Pope Francis’ First World Day of the Poor.

Carrie and Julie will plan to personally invite and recruit some members for this new committee and will help guide them for 2018-19. They will submit a final draft proposal for this new committee, along with information for the parish bulletin. Council discussed possible dates for this next service day, possibly on 11/17/18 -- the day before the World Day of the Poor (which happens to coincide with Bishop Conlon’s planned visit to our parish). Tom Cordaro recommended waiting until early April before firming up a final date for this, especially to coordinate with the overall parish calendar. The final date will then also be included on the 2018-19 calendars sent to families in the Religious Education programs.

NOMINATIONS/ RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE: In Co-Chair Peggy Soeldner’s absence tonight, Mary Oliphant reviewed the list of nominees who have already expressed interest and have been contacted by them to discern as At-Large Members on Council. There was some additional discussion about other potential candidates, along with their recruitment. Mary also noted that she has already started to run nomination information in the parish bulletin a few weeks earlier than typically done in previous years. It was also noted that candidates need to be reminded about the upcoming discernment process ahead and that their commitment is not yet needed during this nomination stage.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: Council Vice-President Don Wenig reviewed 2017-18 parish collections data through 2/25/18, which he had received from Parish Business Manager Mike Prus and forwarded to Council. Mike had also noted to Don that the collections data shown in the upcoming week’s parish bulletin are slightly higher than actual, as based on estimates. Revenue appears to be turning in the right direction, also showing some increased response to the recent parish appeal. As based on this, there is no longer a deficit in the 2017/18 Parish Budget; and continued monitoring of collections for the next 3 months will be needed to see if this trend continues prior to Council’s finalizing their proposals for the 2018/19 Parish Budget.

Stewardship Committee members Carl and Don suggested that a follow-up letter be sent to parishioners in April, expressing thanks for their generosity made in response to the parish appeal, while also requesting continued support. Carl reported that, of the 1100 commitment cards mailed out for 2018-19 contributions (sent to parishioner households which had made at least one contribution during the past year), only 240 cards were returned. Nevertheless, annual mailing of parish commitment cards should continue, with a recommended year-end mailing (rather than in January). It was also noted that approximately one-third of total contributions are from parishioners contributing through automated giving.

Council will continue to carefully look at collection data in early May, when they finalize the parish budget proposal at the May meeting.

Following this, Council took a break from 8:05-8:15 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Mary Oliphant. Mary was thanked for these.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Administration: [Saint Margaret Mary Parish Administration Commission Minutes of Tuesday, February 13, 2018... were submitted in advance by Mike Prus, a copy of which is shown hereto].

There was some discussion tonight about the recent lead testing conducted in the parish facilities, at the request of the Diocese. No representative from Administration Commission was in attendance at tonight's meeting. While all of the potable (drinking) water tested was below federal guidelines, a few areas exceeded the State standards. Although there are no lead pipes, the problem areas were noted where the pipe is less frequently flushed (for less frequently used faucets); and signs are now posted in these areas requesting that water be run for 30 seconds prior to using the water for drinking. Lead filters are being installed at all the areas affected.

Carrie noted that the outer door leading to the women's bathroom in the Parish Center very loudly slams shut. Tom Cordaro requested that she send him an email about this to notify the Building Manager.

Christian Service (CSC): [Christian Service Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council – March 6, 2018 was submitted in advance by Carrie Tilton, a copy of which is shown hereto. This was later resubmitted with updates from Daybreak and Men's Club].

Carrie Tilton, CSC Representative, reviewed the following service ministry groups' highlights:

The Blood Drive is scheduled for 4/14, for which the Knights of Columbus are signing up donors in advance after the Sunday Masses.

Daybreak Transitional Housing Ministry is finalizing the selection of its third guest family, with final interviews scheduled for this Saturday. While there is now an adequate number of mentors, Carl noted that a few additional mentors would still be helpful. According to Carl, Daybreak greatly appreciated Carrie Tilton's recently attending their meeting.

The Men's Club is still seeking 2-3 parishioner homes in need of their repair/clean-up efforts for their "April in Parish" service day Saturdays. Dave Schwartz supplemented the March summary report with some additional Men's Club updates tonight. They will also be hosting a Family Fun Night (4/21); a Card Night (5/11); and a Golf Outing (5/18).

The Shamrock Shindig (3/02//18), hosted by Young Adult Catholics, had a moderate turn-out (possibly also due to incorrect date initially advertised and information omission about its being a fundraiser for Youth Ministry summer service trips). Dave Schwartz noted that the food and music were excellent.

The Military Ministry reported that SMMP was the host site this past Sunday for Operation Support Our Troop's annual meeting, which SMMP's Military Ministry actively supports and helps. SMMP's Military Ministry invites a Council representative to attend their events.

Peace & Justice Advisory Working Group is planning SMMP's upcoming parish Social Mission Week (April 1-8), culminating on Divine Mercy Sunday. According to Tom Cordaro, our parish's awareness efforts on this date will also coordinate with other parishes' efforts throughout the Diocese for this. Tom shared information with Council tonight about an educational program being scheduled earlier during that week about the appropriations process in Congress for the 2017 and 2018 federal budget. An optional postcard-signing campaign activity will also be offered to protect the social service safety net for the impoverished. Tom invited questions from Council about the upcoming Parish Social Mission Week..

Pro-L.I.F.E. Committee did not submit a report for March. Information about the success of the recent "Baby Bottles for Life" campaign to support Waterleaf Pregnancy Center is being sought.

Sharing Parish reported that "Applications for tuition assistance at Aurora Catholic Grammar Schools for the 2018-2019 academic year have been sent out. One application has already been returned -- with a thank you attached:" [An additional survey response about the Parish Garage Sale to benefit tuition assistance is included within the "Sharing Parish" section in the attached March CSC report].

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

According to Brian Pelz, CWC Representative, much planning is currently under way for Holy Week and Easter. Music Director John Schlaman is meeting about the new sound system for the church, with its \$30,000 funding being covered by the generosity of two donors. Its installation is anticipated during the summer. Brian has requested that Council members (and their families) sign up to be Gift Bearers at the Sunday Masses; and he will be sending a sign-up link shortly to Council for doing this.

Fr. Paul reported that a number of responses were received for the part-time Art & Environment Coordinator and that he and a committee have conducted interviews with a few outstanding candidates. Although no hiring has been done yet, he stated that this position should be filled very soon. Meanwhile, a group of parish volunteers have continued to work on Art & Environment throughout the church and parish facilities during this interim period. It was especially noted about how well this volunteer had recently cleaned and inventoried the Art & Environment storage room. Council extended a special thanks to this group for stepping in

Christian Education: [Christian Education Commission February 2017 Ministry Reports were submitted in advance by Julie Lomax, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Julie Lomax, CEC Representative, shared the Commission's plans to hold a registration packet pickup day for Religious Education rather than mailing out these packets. By personally interfacing with the parents, along with providing some program display, volunteer sign-up, and information tables, the CEC hopes that these efforts would be more personalized, informative, and fruitful.

The last "Saturday Morning Live" breakfast program for 2017-18 will be held this coming Saturday morning at SMMP. It will feature a panel presentation on "Living Life Intentionally" and will include Carl Van Dril on the panel. It was noted how the "Saturday Morning Live" breakfast programs appear to be more inviting to a larger range of parishioners (some who are not currently employed) than the former "Business Breakfast" programs.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: According to Youth Representative Kristen Slevnik, who is also a Peer Ministry Leader, the recent Sophomore Retreat had gone very well. Sophomore attendees reported their having "gotten a lot from it." Fr. Paul had noted that a much larger number from this year's retreat group vs. last year's had opted to participate in Reconciliation.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: According to Carl, an active recruitment and interviewing process is underway for the new part-time Communications Coordinator position. Numerous applications were received, some phone interviews were

conducted, and several face-to-face interviews were recently completed with a few finalist candidates. According to Carl, each of the candidates presents a slightly different skill set and life situation, although every finalist candidate has some Catholic life experiences. It is hoped that the new Communications Coordinator will be hired by late March or early April.

Subsequent to the Communications Coordinator's hiring, the Communications Committee plans to still meet with the Coordinator for advocacy and support. The Communications Committee includes Carl Van Dril, Victoria Kosirog, Peggy Soeldner, Mary Oliphant, and Dave Schwartz.

SMMP MINISTRY CENSUS: Julie was thanked for creating the online census form, with 15-20 completed forms now received. However, a few respondents reported having encountered some technical issues with this. Half of the service ministry leaders have submitted their respective ministry group's census report. Julie will create a spreadsheet for Council, showing which committees and ministry group leaders have responded. Following this, the next step will be for the Commission heads to request census information which is still missing from some of their ministry groups, with Council reviewing these in April.

It was noted that this census should help Council better learn about the strengths and weaknesses of the parish's numerous ministry and service groups. Council will also need to compile and interpret the data received from this census. It was also suggested that analysis and further discussion about the ministry census might serve as a future Parish Leadership workshop topic.

"WHAT ARE WE HEARING FROM PARISHIONERS?" – DISCUSSION:

- Great feedback was received about the Sophomore Retreat.
- The once-monthly Women's Café is going well, revolving around a reflection topic, and it continues to have approximately 15-20 attendees. Its schedule for 2017-18 shows meeting dates rotating between alternating Thursday and Friday mornings.
- Some Communication Coordinator candidates have commented about how impressed they were with SMMP as a parish, including its website and parish bulletin. The frequent reference to the "discernment process" within our parish was also noted by some of them and considered to be rather outstandingly unique.
- SMMP's Ash Wednesday services continue to show increasing attendance, including by some non-parishioners.
- The Shamrock Shindig had great Irish music performed by the Whiskey Brothers, who regularly perform every Sunday at Ballydoyle in Downers Grove.

- SMMP’s Facebook postings need to be more gender inclusive. [Please note: the centralized coordination of parish social media should be undertaken by the new parish Communication Coordinator, with postings in accordance with Diocesan policy].

FINAL “WHIP” AROUND: Comments included:

- “Nice meeting.”
- “Ray Jeffreys needs to be recognized for his outstanding volunteer efforts for the third winter in a row in clearing snow from the church sidewalk and outer stairs.”
- “Good effective meeting.”
- “Good brownies.”
- “Good meeting.”
- “Good meeting.”
- “Good meeting.”
- “Excited about the census.”
- “I’m seeing progress.”
- “Thanks for your work on the parish calling.”
- “Thanks, Tom, for helping with serving and cleanup at the Men’s Club Spouses Night dinner.”

CLOSING: Mary Oliphant offered a closing prayer. Following this, the meeting ended at 9:07 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room.

Opening/Closing Prayer (April): Brian Pelz

Refreshments (April): Brian Pelz

Respectfully submitted,
 Marlyn Ligner Steury
 Recording Secretary

|*****

**SAINT MARGARET MARY PARISH
 ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION
 Minutes of Tuesday, February 13, 2018
 7:30 – 9:00 PM**

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

Members Absent: Anne Lysaught

1. Opening Prayer: Led by Michael Prus

2. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the November 29, 2017 meeting were approved “by acclamation”, without changes. Chuck has agreed to serve as chairperson and lead the meetings.

3. Discussion/Decision Items:

A. Lawn Maintenance

We reviewed the Greenbrier Landscape LLC proposal dated February 5, 2018 covering landscape services for the 2018 season. Greenbrier has been the Parish Landscape contractor since 2005 and the quality of their work has been very good. For 2018 they have requested a \$200 annual increase to \$10,600. This is less than 2% and the first increase since 2015. The Commission unanimously approved renewal of the contract.

B. Water testing for lead

In response to a Diocese initiative SMMP had all the potable (drinkable) water sources tested on November 15, 2017. Results of all 19 areas showed results well below the Federal EPA standard of 15 ppb (parts per billion). The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has set a much lower level of 2 ppb. The sample results for 5 of the 19 areas exceeded the IL standard, three in the Kitchen, 1 in the Vesting Sacristy, one in the Working Sacristy (area behind the altar). Three of the five were minimally above the 2 ppb level (2.02 – 2.24 ppb). All five locations exceeding were from testing when the fixture had been unused for at least 12 hours and a sample immediately taken (1st draw). All 19 fixtures were then run for at least 30 seconds (flush sample) and only the Vesting Sacristy limit exceeded 2 ppb on the 2nd draw (flush). Mike has added signage at the Kitchen and Working Sacristy sinks to flush for 30 seconds before using for potable (drinking) use. At the vesting sacristy a sign has been added to NOT use that fixture for potable water.

We discussed any further steps which should be taken. Charcoal filters could be added to the cold water lines serving fixtures above the IDPH limit. Price is less than \$100 per filters. We discussed what level of communication was appropriate. We agreed on the following actions: 1) Add carbon filters in the kitchen, Bob will install these; 2) permanently keep the posted signs in the Kitchen, Working and Vesting Sacristy; 3) Post an informational memorandum in the Kitchen (the only area of significant water use) to provide more information of why the signage was added. This will be done promptly.

C. Discuss leadership roles

Review of discussion from last meeting (what role each will have on the commission now that Tom Hill has retired). Chuck has agreed to serve as Chairperson. Mike has been setting the agenda, but would welcome input from other commission members. Mike and Chuck discussed his reviewing future agendas with Mike before they are issued to provide input. Jeff will take meeting minutes and issue them shortly after the meeting. Sue is looking for a replacement as Finance Committee Chair, she expects to stay on the committee in the future in a lesser role. She is also travelling more which will cause her to miss some meetings. Ann was not present tonight but has expressed an interest in being active.

D. Scheduling future meeting(s)

The commission agreed to meet again in May at 7:30 PM. This will be Monday, Tuesday or Thursday in May avoiding Men's Club Meeting (3rd Tuesday- May 15) or Finance Committee (3rd Wednesday- May 16). Mike will coordinate scheduling this with the group (Doodle poll).

4. Member Reports and Discussion:

A. Chuck Marquis: No further report

B. Bob Stezowski, Building Manager: The chapel 3-way mixing valve was replaced and is providing heat. No further report.

C. Sue Schroeder, Finance: Recently met with the Parish Council (PC) and adjusted budgets slightly. The PC recommended a 10% cut again this year unless we are confident collections will increase. The Finance Committee is not comfortable assuming collections will increase. John Schlaman, our Music Director told Sue that a \$29,600 expenditure for a new sound system is being fully funded by two donors. Installation will be done after Easter.

D. Michael Prus, Business Manager: 1) *We Share*, new provider on collections seems to be working out. They provided financial information in a timelier manner than *Parish Pay*. Since we've transitioned between providers in 2017, Pat Henke can generate a report on request for individual donors. 2) Klaus asked about enrollment at All Saints Academy. Mike responded that Fr. Paul has indicated enrollment is lower than earlier projected. A target goal was about 600 students, and the current number is about 470.

E. Anne Lysaught, At Large Delegate: Absent.

F. Jeff Jameson, At Large Delegate: Jeff will review the costs of replacing original HVAC units in the church and provide input to Sue to update those line items in the Repair and Replacement budget. This is needed by early March at the latest.

G. Klaus Rummer: No further report.

5. New Business: None

6. Evaluation: A good meeting. Chuck raised the question as to whether we need to do an Evaluation after each meeting, they are consistently good meetings. We agreed it may not be necessary to document this, unless a follow-up action from a meeting is identified.

7. Closing Prayer: Led by Chuck Marquis.

Submitted by Mike Prus

Christian Service Commission
Monthly Report to Parish Council
March 6, 2018 – *Daybreak and Men’s Club Additions*

Bereavement:

We will not be meeting in February. Our next meeting will be March 21st.
(Submitted by Patti McGehee)

Blood Drive:

Activities for February 2018.

- The Knights will be having blood donor sign-ups after all the Masses the weekends of 3/31/18, 4/1/18 and 4/7/18, 4/8/18. The Blood Drive will be on Saturday April 14, 2018.
- Sarah Horne of Heartland Blood Centers gave a brief orientation talk regarding our April Blood Drive prior to our February Knight’s meeting.
- Knights will be contacting all former donors by phone to again sign up.

(Submitted by Dan Patt on behalf of the Knights of Columbus)

Boy Scouts (Troop 507): No report

(Ramona Vaikutis)

Charitable Contributions: No report (no activity until after budget decisions)

(Pam Cieslak)

Christmas Giving Tree: Nothing to report.

(Submitted by Tom Cordaro)

Comfort Care Ministry (Funeral Luncheons, Emergency Meals): Nothing new to report.

(Submitted by Kathy Kalina)

Cub Scouts (Pack 507):

Cub Master - Tim Tilton

Committee Chairman - Brian Burgner

February Activities:

- Overnight at the Adler Planetarium Feb 2-3
- Scout Sunday held at SMMP on Feb 10th during 5pm mass
- Blue & Gold Banquet Feb 11th (i.e. graduation of oldest Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts)

March Activities:

- Cub Scout Family Bowling – Lisle Lanes, Sunday, March 11
- Pack Hike – Greene Valley, Sunday, March 18th (starting monthly hike program)

(Submitted by Tim Tilton)

Daybreak Transitional Housing:

I attended February's meeting. Thank you for welcoming me! It was very nice to meet everyone. The group discussed SMMP's 2 families – each having their unique struggles and successes. Budget considerations were also discussed, spear-headed by Carl VanDril.

(Submitted by Carrie Tilton)

We will be interviewing a new client next Saturday and will bring our Daybreak family count to three if we approve of her. Catholic Charities is holding a mentor training on March 17. Patricia McAuliffe and a potential new committee member will be attending. We are working on our budget.

(Submitted by Pat McAuliffe)

Knights of Columbus:

Activities for February 2018

- Knights provided assistance along with members of the Parish to the Deacons with Baptisms on February 11th, February 18th and February 25th after the 12 Noon Mass.
- Knights helped with Hospitality Sunday on February 18th along with members of the Men's Club.
- Knights were set to volunteer at Loaves and Fishes on Saturday February 10th, but due to the snow storm the facility could not open.
- Knights helped with the clean-up and dirty laundry collection at PADS and delivery to the Edward Hospital Laundry on Friday February 16th.
- Knights held their monthly business/social meeting on Thursday February 22nd. There were 18 members and 2 guests; our District KC Deputy and the KC State Newman Fund Chairman.
- Knights sponsored and lead the Family Rosary Prayer Service after the 12 Noon Mass in the Chapel on February 25th. This will be a monthly event on the last Sunday of each month, all Parish members are welcome.

(Submitted by Dan Patt)

Men's Club:

The Mens Club "April In PARISH Project" for this year will be held on April 7, 14 and 21. The days men will be working will depend on the homes and their needs. This program requests the members of the Men's Club volunteer to fix-up, clean-up, and/or repair the homes of parishioners who are in need. The potential clients' homes and needs are then reviewed by the project chairman and the Men's Club's executive committee. After review, the clients for the year are identified and the specific project(s) begin.

- *We had at least 100 (with spouses) attend the February meeting*
- *We had about 100 bingo players plus about 30 volunteers at bingo*
- *Saturday night (Shindig) was fun; need to figure out a way to get more attendance for Dan.*

The following events are occurring in the next few months:

- March 20, 2018 General Meeting- Abbot Austin from St. Procopius Abbey will be the speaker.
- Family Fun Night April 21 in the parish center. This is a night for the families of SMMP to enjoy activities with children
- Mulch Day May 5, 2018 Members of the Mens Club will spread mulch on the grounds of the church.
- *5/11 golf outing*
- *5/12 tentative Loaves and Fishes*
- *5/18 card night*

Tom is open to follow up regarding his answers on the Census Survey. He was not comfortable including member and member contact information.

A listing of the current officers and committee chairs should be reasonable.

(Submitted by Tom Zakosek with *italicized* additions by David Schwartz)

Military Ministry:

Minutes were compiled by Don & Candy and accepted by the group. Discussion was had regarding a speaker for our May event & as yet we are still looking. We aren't hearing back from those we contacted.

We now know that Naperville Cares has a veterans component & one of our members is looking into how we might be able to work together. We were told that they are very interested in working with us as they have heard about our ministry.

We are also set to collect greeting cards for our deployed troops the weekend before Memorial Day weekend. Many of our troops appreciate having access to cards to send home. Additionally, Linda has had some conversation with us regarding Hospitality Sunday & the children that are there coloring & doing crafts. She is checking to see if we can provide the supplies & ask the children to make (or color pictures) Thinking of You cards for our troops.

SMMP will again be the site for the annual Operation Support Our Troops (OSOT) meeting this Sunday, March 4th. Our ministry hosts & serves this group. We have been doing this for quite a few years. OSOT provides all the food & refreshments as well as all the supplies that are needed. We have a very solid relationship with OSOT which helps us help them support our deployed troops.

We have turned in our budget to Tom Cordaro & will respond to the Ministry Census Survey sent to all ministries by the Parish Council.

**Please add to Military Ministry Survey:*

I asked my team what else PC might do to support us (one of the questions on the Census). They said, "Have a rep from PC attend our events (or one of our events like our Veterans Day Event.)"

(Submitted by Candy Rice)

Nursery: No report

(Cailin Ramirez)

Pastoral Care: No report

(Fred Straub)

Peace & Justice Advisory Working Group:

Initial plans are being made for our April 1-8 parish social mission week. The theme will be, "Seeing With the Eyes of Mercy: There was no needy person among them." It will be focused on the First Reading from Acts 4:32-35 and the Gospel, John 20:19-31. Our advocacy will be directed to our US Senators and Representatives urging them to invest in programs and support policies that help improve the lives of men, women, and children struggling in poverty. In particular we will be looking at the Appropriations process in Congress for the 2018 and 2019 federal budget. The specific target of our postcard campaign will be determined by mid-March. **REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP:** Our committee delivered a "care package" to an extended family of refugees from the Sudan who are currently living in West Chicago. This was made possible by a special collection at our last parish social mission weekend. The remaining money raised through this collection will be used to provide seed money for a new refugee support program in DuPage County that is designed to help refugees improve their English skills. **EARTH CARE COMMITTEE:** Our committee will be meeting in March to make plans for our parish to participate in Earth Day activities (April 22) promoted by the Catholic Climate Covenant. The theme of this year's campaign is, "Beyond a Throwaway Culture: Reduce Waste—Grow Community.

(Submitted by Tom Cordaro)

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

Ongoing activities continue. No other activity for the past month.

(Submitted by Mary Ann Cronauer)

St. Vincent de Paul:

Nothing to report from SVDP this month.
(Submitted by Mark Oliphant)

September Club:

On Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 19 members enjoyed a delicious lunch at the House of Emperor. We began with a prayer. Members were asked to remember those members who are ill in their prayers. January & February birthdays and anniversaries were recognized.
(Submitted by Ann Patt)

Sharing Parish:

Applications for tuition assistance at Aurora Catholic Grammar Schools for the 2018-2019 academic year have been sent out. One application has already been returned -- with a thank you attached:

"Thank you for all your help -- Catie would never be able to go to private school if not for you all. You all are angels and always so kind."

Re survey:

We are a very large and fluid group of all ages, possibly approaching 100 people; people come and go, and then come back again. Some don't sign in, and some who do don't list their emails. We have an ever increasing number of teens, some of whom are fulfilling service hours. We are happy to have so many people volunteer to make the Garage Sale (our biggest project!) a great success by choosing jobs that need to be done and the hours they want to work. We also make a group effort to support other parish ministries with our attendance, and share any goods that become available for somebody's benefit.

Besides not having all the information being asked for about so many people, my computer skills are limited, and I do not know how to transmit the contact information I do have. I will do my best and let it go at that!

(Submitted by Martha Rose)

Carrie has offered assistance, if needed; otherwise, Carrie can contact Martha if the Parish Council has follow up questions.

Reports compiled and submitted by Carrie Tilton

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

Open Items:

- Review and improve the process of establishing Gift Bearers

CWC Chair:

- There was no CWC meeting in February.

Youth Altar Servers:

- Nothing to report

Family Altar Servers:

- Nothing to report

Art & Environment:

- Looking for a part time A&E Coordinator. Have been interviewing candidates.

Baptisms:

- Awaiting confirmation that the Baptismal family photos will be published in the bulletin once a month and that the practice of getting flowers to the parents will be reinstated.
- Baptismal families are now being recognized in the pre-mass announcements and intercessions.

Bread Bakers:

- Nothing to report

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Made a presentation at the 12:00 PM Mass on March 4th to encourage attendees to become EMs. EM training sessions have been scheduled for March 10th and March 12th. Training info should be in the March 4th bulletin.
- The change in distributing Communion to the EMs is going well.
- Received all the feedback from the EMs. Will be summarizing the input and working with Deacon Ken on follow through. One thing to note: one of the questions asked was “why are you a Eucharistic Minister?”. The overwhelming response of those responded was how powerful this ministry is to the faith of the EMs.

Greeters:

- Nothing to report

Lectors:

- Recruited one more teen lector by following up with those that read at the Boy Scout Mass.

Linen Launderers:

- Nothing to report

Liturgy Development:

- Planning for Holy Week and Easter

Music:

- New sound system on the horizon.

Sacristans:

- A new Sacristan volunteer who is currently going through training, has volunteered to serve at the 12:00 PM mass on Sundays.

Gift Bearers:

- Brian will follow up, ask if Pastoral Council has signed up https://www.smp.com/worship/gift_bearer_signup.php

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.smp.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

**Christian Education Commission
February 2017
Ministry Reports**

ADULT FAITH FORMATION – Sister Madelyn

BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study for 2017-18 will conclude on March 13th. Those who participate in Bible Study have been generous in their praise for Sr. Marianne's presentations on Colossians and Ephesians.

SATURDAY MORNING LIVE: Jeanine Jelinek was our Feb. 17th speaker. Topic: Magnifying Diversity. The 24 participants gave high marks to Jeanine for her fine presentation. Both content and delivery were superb. Jeanine emphasized the point that living the challenges of diversity is one way of living our faith.

EVENING ENRICHMENT: Fr. Paul will give a presentation on "Enneagram Insights" Feb. 28th
All are invited.

MORNING ENRICHMENT: David Schimmel gifted 30 parishioners with his reflection on 'Lent – It's Purpose and Practices' after the 8:15 Mass on Ash Wednesday. His delivery was so well received that participants asked to have it posted on the SMM website. It is available for reading throughout Lent. Fr. Paul will present "Catholicism 101: The Healing Sacraments" on March 14th

RETREATS: "Adventures in Contemplation" continues with 60 people meeting for prayer and input twice a month. On March 5, the group will begin its study of *The Cloud of Unknowing*.

The February 18, 2018 bulletin published the news that CRHP is taking a break for the foreseeable future. With so many having made this retreat, it is difficult finding parishioners willing to make the weekend retreat. Plans are underway to provide Evenings of Reflection for those who have made the retreat. April 29th is the first Evening of Reflection (6:30-8:30 pm) in the Upper Room.

Sr. Madelyn is meeting with CRHP 35 to familiarize them with Lectio Divina (Praying With Scripture) and to facilitate the sharing of their faith histories.

Twenty-four women attended the retreat in Mundelein presented by Sr. Madelyn and Al Gustafson. PRAY ALL WAYS was the theme of the retreat. To date, 14 men are registered to enjoy this retreat March 16-18. Dates for the 2019 retreats are February 1-3 for women; March 1-3 for men. Theme TBA

RCIA: Sessions with Max Leichtman, our one catechumen, continue to go well. The Rite of Election was celebrated on Feb. 18th at the 10:00 a.m. Mass.....and at St. Raymond Cathedral at 2:00 pm.

SMALL GROUP: Women's Café is going well and attracts approximately 15 -20 parishioners for lively discussions on given topics. See attached report.

SMMP Catholic Women's Café

Established: Spring/Summer 2017

Founding Committee Members: Linda Griffin, Liz Kruk, Julie Lomax, Kathy Morrison, Janene Parisi

Objective: Bringing women of Saint Margaret Mary Parish together for fellowship and faith enrichment.

Meeting schedule and topics:

August 27, 2017 (TH 9am)	Strengthened by Faith (using the story of the virgins and the lamp oil from Matthew 25)
September 21 (Thursday 9am)	Prayer-Full Life (highlighting types of prayer, including Lectio Devina)
October 20 (Friday 9am)	Seasons of Faith (study of Martha & Mary scripture with a focus on holiday gatherings)
November 16 (Thursday 9am)	Gratitude Brings Joy (discussion of Philippians 4 with support from "soul pancake" videos)
December 15 (Friday 9am)	"Café Light" (attendees are encouraged to share personal expressions of faith in the form of stories,

art, poetry, etc.; morning begins with an advent wreath focused meditation)

January 25, 2018 (TH 9am)	Live as Daughters of the King (discussion of attributes and expectations of royalty in kingdoms on earth and in Kingdom of Heaven; meditation on James 1:25. "Listen, obey, and be blessed.")
February 23 (Friday 9am)	A Fresh Look at Lent (Hosea 6:6 shows us what to strive for, rather than what to give up. "The Word Among Us" redirects Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving into a focus Upward, Inward, and Outward. Father Mike [Ascension Press video] tells us "Fasting can change you forever.")
March 15 (Thursday 9am)	TBA
April 20 (Friday 9am)	TBA
May 17 (Thursday 9am)	TBA

As of February, meetings have been attended by approximately 10 – 20 women in addition to the committee. Coffee, tea, treats and conversation are shared for the first 20 – 30 minutes. Many in attendance have been "regulars" and many have contributed food or cash donations.

Religious Education – K to 5th Grade – Sue Davey

The final First Communion Blessing rite (using the baptismal candle) was the weekend of January 24/25. The retreat is March 3rd. So far 54 children registered to participate. We are short adult volunteers. Several of the parents backed out and no one responded to the request for additional help. A few of the parents who attended the planning meeting will ask their older children to help out.

During the week of February 4th, we held our catechist open house where Lenten ideas were available for review. The event was well attended by the catechists. Debbie Brutlag offered several new ideas for use in the class.

We had a 4:00 prayer service and distribution of ashes on February 14th. The service was well attended but not as many as in prior years. However, the schools began a five day holiday that day so many families were away on vacation.

Our 5th grade catechist on Tuesday 3:30 resigned due to a job change. None of the parents on have responded to our request to step in to take over the class. Caitlin Sica, our Echo apprentice agreed to take the class for the remainder of the year.

On Saturday, February 24th we had a children's Mass at 5:00. Debbie Linton coordinated. Approximately 20 children participated.

The Good Friday children's service is canceled. I could not get a volunteer coordinator and the children who normally participated will be away for spring break.

Youth Ministry – Dan Lawler

Our second Parent Sacrament Retreat of the year was on Sunday, February 4th.

We ended the Altaration series with our 7th graders with a teaching Mass. It was a unique opportunity for those students to dive deeper into the meaning of the elements of the Mass. Fr. Paul also invited them onto the altar for an up close perspective on the ritual and prayers of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It seemed to be a positive experience for many of the students and the adults.

The Sophomore Retreat was on February 23-24 and a great opportunity for our young people and adult leaders to be immersed in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Our peer ministers worked for three months to prepare witness talks, prayer experiences, and hone their small group facilitation skills. The most moving parts of the retreat happened on Friday night as our young people recognized their parents, grandparents, friends, and other people who demonstrated the gift of courage in their lives and sought God's forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation.

We are getting ready for our annual Shamrock Shindig fundraiser. We will have homemade Irish food, craft beer and wine, and The Whiskey Brothers band performing. Tickets are available on our website youngadulthcatholic.org. All proceeds will support our Youth Ministry summer service trips.

We will begin the final stage of preparation for our confirmandi with reflections and Confirmation Interviews. We are asking the community to continue to pray for them as they explore God's call for their life. Confirmation will be on Friday, May 4th at 7 pm with Fr. Paul presiding.

All Saints Catholic Academy

No report.

Reports compiled and submitted by Julie Lomax
