

Mary, Mother of Mercy

Parish Council

Witness Committee Report

June 8, 2017

**Rice Bowl** Holy Cross Church collected 265 dollars for Catholic Relief Services. St. Francis had “rice bowls” returned, but I do not have a dollar figure at the time of this writing. Our religious education students also participated, but I do not have an amount total from their efforts.

**Personal Care Item Collection** Holy Cross and St. Francis collected personal care items the last weekend in April and every weekend in May. The donated items were given to the Interlaken and Ovid Food Pantries. Personal care products are seldom donated during the year and are most needed at these local food pantries. We had a wonderful response! We were able to donate a large plastic trunk of requested items. St. James collects such needed items on a weekly basis and donates locally when received.

**School Supply Collection** United Way of Seneca County **Fill the Bus** campaign begins “officially” on July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends August 16<sup>th</sup>. It is a coordinated county-wide effort. The goal is to provide basic school supplies to students in need at all four districts. The donations are given to each of the school districts based on enrollment. The schools determine the best way to distribute.

Individuals, businesses and organizations collect supplies. They are delivered on a set date and then volunteers sort, organize and deliver to the area schools. Items can also be dropped off at a local library, at the United Way of Seneca County office (Main Street Shops, Waterloo) after July 1<sup>st</sup>, and on the day of the event. Monetary donations are also welcome. Holy Cross and St. Francis will begin accepting school supply donations in early July. This year the event date is scheduled for Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Fayette Fire Hall on Route 414 South.

United Way of Tompkins County currently does not conduct a school supply drive. I am exploring other avenues that would help our students in Tompkins County where St. James could participate. I have been unable to reach Anne Haus who is associated with the Trumansburg Food Pantry. She is very active in social outreach programs in Tompkins County and would most likely be able to inform me of current programs that assist our students.

The next Witness Committee meeting is scheduled for July 6<sup>th</sup> at noon at St Francis, Interlaken.

**Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish**

**Word Committee Report**

**June 8, 2017**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, YOUTH: The Religious Education teachers met on June 1 to begin to formulate a curriculum for a weeklong summer program. It is hoped to happen the week of August 7-11. There will be a fee of 30 dollars per child, but no one will be turned away. The initial reaction has been positive from the parents. We hope to have an online registration and parents meeting before June ends. Discussion with some leaders in the diocesan offices show that other parishes in the diocese are moving to summer programs as time constraints/athletic events on Sundays become more plentiful. Upcoming meeting of teachers will be in a few weeks to finalize plans. Registration will roll out soon

After the new parish council forms in June, will need to see if there are members interested in serving on the Word Committee.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, HIGH SCHOOL: Confirmation was held for eight ninth graders on May 3 at St. Stephen's church (Part of Our Lady of Peace Parish) in Geneva. Retreats for the first year students are upcoming. Gerry to return for 2017-18

ADULT CATECHESIS: Moving forward with Summer movie series, 3 movies, one at each church. Religious themed (A Man for All Seasons, Of Gods and Men, etc) with a brief introduction. Discussion and dessert after?

Andy Morpurgo, chair, word committee

The Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy  
Report to Parish Council on behalf of the Worship Committee  
June 8, 2017

I. Overview of activities 2016-2017

- August 2016 - Music Ministers meet and establish weekly meetings  
Formation of Parish Choir
- September 2016 - Formed music ministry – 5pm Sat. at St. James
- October 2016 - Ministry Fair  
Parish Mission
- November 2016 - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service (Holy Cross)  
Event to close Jubilee Year of Mercy – Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- December 2016 - TACC Christmas Concert  
Parish Choir at Midnight Mass
- January 2017 - Formed Liturgy Planning Subcommittee
- February 2017 - Established Schedule for Ash Wednesday Liturgies
- March 2017 - Planned Lenten Services  
Stations of the Cross (continues into April)  
Reconciliation Service
- April 2017 - Triduum
- May 2017 - Honoring Mary  
Holy Hour for Vocations  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Our Lady of Fatima

II. Liturgy Planning Committee elected a new chair – Mark Sinkiewicz  
Mark will work closely with the Worship Committee in carrying out meetings and setting agendas. LPC continues to meet regularly.

It has been suggested that there should be one contact person for the parish when planning music for weddings and funerals. This will be discussed within the Worship Committee and at the next music ministers meeting in August.

The Worship Committee met to discuss the Parish Day. We would like to propose the following option – option 1 is our preference.

1. August 15 – Assumption of Mary (2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in August)

Celebrate weekend of August 12-13

LPC would plan something special for masses this weekend. Parish Day celebration on Sunday afternoon.

2. September 15 – Feast Day of Our Lady of Sorrows (3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in September)

Social Friday, Saturday, Sunday (Catechesis begins on Sunday)  
LPC Committee will plan something special for the masses this weekend.

**Of note, the “Parish Day Celebration” is not a celebration of a feast day, rather a day to celebrate the parish which is in close correlation to the celebration of Mary.**

If option one is chosen, the Parish celebration would take place every 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of August.

If option two is chosen, the Parish celebration would then take place every 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of September.

Workable Timeline:

June 8 – Worship Committee proposes to Parish Council; notes feedback

Week of June 12 – Worship committee meets with Fr. Bernard to decide dates

Week of June 19 – Call meeting of the LPC and Fellowship Committees to discuss initial planning

Fellowship and LPC will continue planning of Parish Day celebration and liturgies.

### III. On the Horizon...

1. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion – need to be recertified before December 2017; Ask Fr. Bernard about whether training is necessary
2. Ministry Fair 2017 – October – Worship Committee will finalize date  
*Suggestions for improvement:*  
St. James, sign up was in the Pine Room, need to be where people are exiting  
Continue to have volunteers who can offer information about ministries  
Increase word of mouth – don’t be afraid to ask people to participate in ministries  
Testimonies went over well – need to make sure they are short (3 minutes)  
Public Announcement the weekend before  
Provide coffee and donuts to encourage people to stick around?  
  
Would other committees like to host recruiting events?
3. Workshop for Music Ministry  
A music minister suggested we hold a workshop for music ministers that might include:  
“Masterclass” – cantors and choirs  
Session – Planning music for liturgies  
Session – How to lead productive rehearsals and expand your choirs reach/repertoire

Possibility to extend this type of format to other ministries?

Worship committee and music ministers will discuss further to decide if this is an event we should/can hold

Submitted on behalf of the Worship Committee

Jessica Portillo, chair; Gerry Frank; Amy Panek; Michele Barr