

Mary, Mother of Mercy

Parish Council

Witness Committee Report

March 9, 2017

Public Policy Weekend The collection of signatures opposing legislation for the legalization of physician assisted suicides, supporting alternatives to alleviate suffering, and promoting the option of palliative care, took place on February 4th and 5th. The signature pages were gathered from all three churches and mailed to Deacon Gregory at Catholic Charities in Geneva.

SouperBowl of Caring At Holy Cross \$400 and 268 pounds of non-perishable food items were collected and donated to the Ovid Food Pantry. At St. James the Apostle \$103.50 and 135 pounds of food were collected and donated to the Trumansburg Food Pantry.

Weekend Backpack Program This annual project is an effort to help children in need get nutritious and easy to prepare foods when not in school.

South Seneca Donations were requested the last three Sundays in February at Holy Cross and St. Francis. A variety of single serving foods and a total of \$429.45 were collected from parishioners. Over 50 South Seneca students from both the elementary and high school are being helped. The food and monetary donations were given to Carol Limner of the Ovid Federated Church for distribution to the school district.

Romulus The district runs its own backpack program. Most items are donated by the faculty and staff with some donations from the community. Currently approximately 25 students receive weekend backpacks.

Trumansburg Currently 29 students in the Trumansburg School District benefit. The Food Bank of the Southern Tier supplies the food items for the first twenty five students and the Trumansburg Food Pantry provides the rest. The Food Pantry is run by the Trumansburg Area Churches.

Note: Prior to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier's involvement, the Trumansburg Food Pantry would seek donations from St. James. The Food Bank of the Southern Tier also helps other Tompkins County schools, including Newfield and Ithaca.

Personal Care Item Collection This effort is the collection and donation of personal care items to our local food pantries and will run through the month of May.

Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish
Parish Council Fellowship Committee Report

March, 2017

Soup Supper: Although our team has been experiencing many setbacks in health and other family commitments, we hesitantly prepared ourselves to participate in this endeavor. However, it was decided not to go ahead with the soup supper. We only ask that communication improve as it was only through speaking with a friend that I learned this endeavor had been cancelled. We do need better communications between all of us.

May Celebration of Our Lady: May is the month of Our Lady and especially Our Lady of Fatima. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima's messages. With Our Lady in heart I have discussed with our Fellowship team the possibility of sometime within the month of May celebrating as a parish. I realize May 13th is the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima and Mother's Day weekend as well, so I believe this weekend would probably be out for the celebration.

We could honor Our Lady by having a procession with her possibly with the children of First Communion, sharing with the children of our parish the story of Our Lady of Fatima (possibly in storytelling), making a rosary out of balloons that the children could launch with their and our prayers to Our Lady, celebrate Mass, recitation of the Most Holy Rosary, the Crowning of Our Lady by the children, and consecrating our parish to Our Lady as we are the parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy. This would mean giving this parish over to Our Lady to guide us. After the celebration we could have a pass a dish supper for fellowship. This endeavor would not only honor Our Lady but bring all our committees and parishioners working together to form this beautiful day for Our Lady and the children. This is just a rough idea and the ideas of **all of us in the parish** need to be considered. We have March and April to plan and work on this project that, I believe, if we tap into our parishioners on its behalf for ideas, we may just "spark" some interest in others becoming interested in the Parish Council. I realize this is somewhat vague but I am invoking the Holy Spirit and Our Lady upon this endeavor to assist us in "filling in the gaps" and making a sound decision on its behalf.

Consoling the Heart of Jesus Retreat: Another idea I had for us was to begin working on a retreat based on the book, "Consoling the Heart of Jesus." This would be held possibly in the Fall or during Lent next year, but would be being worked on commencing now as there will be much to do. We could call on many of our parishioners possibly to help us. We have many talents out there that are not being tapped into. In my opinion we need to project months and months ahead with many of our endeavors instead of working on them at the last minute.

If we decide to work on either of these projects we need to really "Talk them Up" to get parishioners interested and on fire. Let's pray together each day for the success of whatever endeavors we decide that will bring forth the Love and Mercy of Our Lord and His/Our Mother.

Through the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Nancy Shumway
Chair of Fellowship Committee

Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish

Word Committee Report

March 8, 2017

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, YOUTH: Religious Education continues for grades K-7 with no major problems. First Penance to be held during lent, First Communion during Eastertide, dates TBA. Teachers have been told to update CASE evals for diocese as needed. Hope to have meeting in next few weeks to discuss possible summer classes. Helen Arco is acting coordinator for First Communion Program. Still looking for a permanent person to take this on.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, HIGH SCHOOL: Confirmation classes are held at St. James the Apostle and are taught by Fr. Bernard and Gerry Frank. Gerry is coordinator for the Confirmation Program. Confirmation for current ninth graders will be May 3 at 7 pm at St. Stephen's church (Part of Our Lady of Peace Parish) in Geneva. Retreats for the second year students begin this weekend.

RCIA: Classes are held Sundays at noon at St. James. Classes are taught by Fr. Bernard. I believe we have three candidates to receive the Sacraments on the Easter vigil.

ADULT EDUCATION/OUTREACH: The word committee was not able to decide on a study/reflection program for adults for Lent. This was partly due to limited responses as well as limited time on the chair's part, due to a family emergency in January and early February. A coordinator for adult catechesis/education is being sought, and a notice will go into the bulletin to begin the search process.

Andy Morpurgo, chair, word committee

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

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Music Ministers Meeting (Thursday, 2/2/17)

Present: Ronnie Fairclough, Phyllis Motill, Fr. Bernard, Janice McLaughlin, John Hager, Ann Buddle, Deb Swartz, Jessica Portillo, Heather Cranford, Sandy Huhn, Dave McLallen.

The meeting began with approval of minutes from August 2016 meeting and a recap of music ministry activities since the merge. The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing Lent and Triduum services. Musicians were assigned for each of the Ash Wednesday celebrations and it was relayed that the Parish Choir will provide music for Triduum services. Musicians were assigned to Thursdays of Lent for Stations of the Cross:

Schedule of Music for Stations of the Cross:

Thursday, March 2	Holy Cross
Thursday, March 9	St. Francis
Thursday, March 16	St. James
Thursday, March 23	Holy Cross
Thursday, March 30	St. Francis
Thursday, April 6	St. James

It was mentioned that altar servers need to be trained and we must have 3 for Benediction. Fr. Bernard to schedule training. Is this still necessary?

The meeting concluded with a small group and then large group discussion on the feeling and reaction to the merger as observed by music ministers and current needs.

St. Francis: Extremely pleased with the merger. There was an initial concern that they would lose the younger population when mass was changed to 8:15am but this has not been the case. The transition has been much smoother than anticipated. There was a questions as to why mass times had to change in the first place. It was mentioned that Jessica has advised the Parish Council of the request for two pianos (acoustic), one for Holy Cross and one for St. James. Sandy suggested that it might be better to purchase an electric piano like the one at St. Francis (easy to transpose). Possible fundraiser: sell individual keys of the piano.

St. James: St. James is in need of more instrumentalists. St. James is feeling some pressure to convert from Glory and Praise to Breaking Bread. This is especially difficult at this time considering the time it takes to arrange music and the limitations of some of the musicians. Fr. Bernard mentioned that congregation at 11am mass is too comfortable listening to music and they don't sing. Fr. Bernard suggested it might be better for 11am musicians to relocate to front of church. Deb addressed that this is an issue considering the number of musicians. Suggestion was made that 11am music ministers transition slowly, whatever that may mean for them.

Holy Cross: very good atmosphere at Holy Cross since the merge. Transition into one parish is getting better. There seems to be a higher attendance at 9:30am mass. There is a need to recruit more musicians in the parish. Holy Cross musicians should set a practice time that better suits the needs of the majority. We are still in need of sound equipment, specifically a lapel mic for the presider.

General Procedures for music ministers:

- Musicians should make their petitions for funds to Fr. Bernard in the form of a proposal. Fr. Bernard will direct to finance council if need be. Please be sure include an itemized list with prices and a reasoning for why you need equipment, etc.
- Please do not spend your own money making copies and printing. Make sure not to infringe on copyright laws.
- Diocese of Rochester is offering scholarships to music ministers who wish to continue their education. Deadline is March 27, 2017.

Liturgy Planning Committee Meeting

Present: Barb Willers, Charlotte Huyler, Jessica Portillo, Mark Sinkiewicz, Gerry Frank, Kathleen Rourke,
Kathy Sinkiewicz

Minutes from previous meeting approved with some corrections. There was a discussion as to the conflict in scheduling stations of the cross. Originally it was decided (by LPC and Fr. Bernard) that Stations of the Cross would take place on Thursdays of Lent at 7pm followed by Benediction with a soup dinner offered at 6pm. The scheduling conflict was a result of meetings that were already scheduled on Thursday nights at St. Francis. Conflicts are as follows:

Thursday March 2 - Finance Council Meeting
Thursday March 9 - Parish Council Meeting
Thursday March 16- Liturgy Planning Committee Meeting
Thursday April 6- Liturgy Planning Committee Meeting

It was decided by LPC to move Stations of the Cross to 6pm and not include a soup dinner or Benediction as to not have a conflict in space and time. This was pending approval from Fr. Bernard. Several issues arose:

- Stations was already advertised in the bulletin at 7pm with Benediction (no soup dinner)
- Musicians were scheduled to play for stations at 7pm
- There has been unrest with changing traditions, namely at Holy Cross and St. James

After a lengthy email thread Fr. Bernard decided **Stations of the Cross will remain scheduled for Thursdays of Lent at 7pm at St. Francis followed by Benediction.**

Ash Wednesday Attendance (approximate)

8am	St. Francis	?
9am	St. James	50
12pm	Holy Cross	35
6pm	Holy Cross	35
7pm	St. James	70

It was suggested by Jessica that we maintain a master list of ministers at all 3 churches. This was met by opposition and was tabled.

Palm Sunday: Kathy S. provided information on ordering palms from Burgess. She has since placed an order for 500 palms and 3 bags of Fan Palms for decorating purposes.

It was mentioned that we need 3 readers for Holy Thursday mass, 4 readers for Good Friday service, and 4 readers for the Easter Vigil. Kathleen, Charlotte, and Gerry will coordinate. Ask to have scheduling finalized by **March 16, 2017.**

Easter Vigil: It was mentioned that readings 1,3,5 were selected. Yet to be confirmed. (ask Fr. Bernard)

It was suggested that perhaps we should schedule an additional mass on Easter Sunday at St. James at 8am. This has yet to be discussed with Fr. Bernard. Reasoning: The Easter Vigil is too late in the evening for some parishioners and Easter Sunday mass at 11am has the potential to interfere with family celebrations.

Adoration at St. James: it was suggested that perhaps an additional Lenten activity could be Adoration after the 10am mass on Fridays at St. James. This has not been discussed formally with Fr. Bernard.

Upcoming Events

Diocese Day of Reconciliation Tuesday, March 28, 2017 12-7pm St. Francis
Reconciliation Service Monday, April 10, 2017 7pm Holy Cross

Other

We are still in need of pianos for St. James and Holy Cross

A new sound system has been installed at St. Francis

We are in critical need of wireless mics at Holy Cross

It was great having Fr. John here with us while Fr. Bernard was away. Can we arrange to send him a thank you note/gift from the parish?

Should we designate a day for Parish Celebration (yearly “Mary” day for the our newly formed parish)?

Submitted on behalf of the Worship Committee: Amy Panek, Michele Barr, Gerry Frank, Jessica Portillo