

## **Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish Council**

### **Witness Committee Report**

**January 25, 2018**

**Seneca County Social Justice Ministry** The first of such meetings was held on November 13<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's in Waterloo by the request of Deacon Gregory Kiley. Parish members from Seneca County churches had the opportunity to hear what the Diocese and Catholic Charities are doing and what they are proposing. There was a lot of focus on the opioid epidemic.

**Restocking** Holy Cross and St. Francis held a "Food Pantry Restocking Drive" from November 12<sup>th</sup> through December 10<sup>th</sup>. The goal was to maintain regular pantry supplies while holiday baskets were prepared for clients. Boxes of food supplies and personal care items were picked up from both churches and taken to the Ovid and Interlaken food pantries for restocking.

### **Winter Clothing Collection**

#### ***Tompkins County***

##### *Share the Warmth*

Mark Baumann of the Trumansburg Rotary delivered a collection bin to St. James and it was placed on the rectory porch. The Rotary maintained the bin throughout the month of November. The Rotary emptied the full bin twice during the month. The winter clothing was brought to the Samaritan Center at Catholic Charities in Ithaca where it was distributed free of charge during the first two weeks in December. A special thank you to Kathleen Rourke for her help in coordinating the setup of the bin.

##### *Hat/Scarf/Mitten Tree*

The Women's Guild once again sponsored the hat, scarf and mitten tree. The tree was set up at St. James. Parishioners responded generously. Donation was made to Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga Counties.

### **Community Christmas Projects**

#### ***Seneca County***

##### *Seneca County Community Christmas Project ~ Angel Tree Tags*

One hundred and two (102) households were served from the Interlaken/Lodi and Ovid/Willard/Romulus areas with a total of three hundred and sixty seven (367) households served in all of Seneca County. This translates to one thousand four hundred and twenty six (1426) people and includes forty five foster care children. The handout (copied below) breaks down the ages of participants and the services provided. The Christmas gift distribution was on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Ovid VFW.

#### ***Tompkins County***

##### *Family Sponsorship*

The St. James Women's Guild sponsored an Ulysses Christmas Bureau family again this year. The St. James Youth Group (four senior girls) and two adults participated. They purchased for a family of four children, spending about one hundred dollars per child. Marina Delaney organized and assisted the youths with this effort.

**Reverse Advent Calendar** The parish encouraged this family Advent activity where a food item or personal care product is added to a box or basket in your house each day of Advent for donation to the local food pantry. This Christmas activity was listed in the bulletin.

**SouperBowl of Caring** This nationwide appeal to feed the hungry is held the first Sunday in February. This year the date is Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. All three churches will be participating in this event. We are asking for donations of non-perishable food items. Monetary contributions are also welcome. Food and monies collected go directly to the food pantries in each of the communities of our parish. The second year Confirmation students will assist in collecting monetary donations after Mass at St. James on February 4<sup>th</sup> as part of their community service project. Food items will be collected the weekends of Jan 27/28 and Feb 3/4. The monetary donation collection will only be done on Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. This is listed in the bulletin.

**Public Policy Weekend** This year the Diocesan Public Policy Advocacy Issue is the passage of the Dream Act of 2017. It is legislation that would enable those brought as children to the United States illegally by their parents to remain in this country. Passage of this legislation will protect hundreds of thousands of immigrants who were raised in this country. The petition drive for this year's advocacy issue will be the weekend of February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. We will be seeking volunteers to stay at the end of each Mass to encourage signatures.

**South Seneca Backpack Program** This program typically runs this time of year. The program requests single serving foods, cash donations or checks made payable to the program. Last year's contact for this activity was Carol Limner. A bulletin announcement will speak to specifics of the program when they are firmed up at our February Witness Committee meeting.

### **Peace Group Considerations**

*The hope is for one of the following to be initiated.*

**Pax Christi USA** The Witness Committee was asked to consider initiating a Pax Christi group. It is an organization that "seeks to model the Peace of Christ in our witness to the mandate of the nonviolence of the Cross". A discussion about this proposal will be added to our next Witness Committee meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Catholic Peace Fellowship** The Witness Committee will look at initiating a Catholic Peace Fellowship. This group works for "peace before, during, and after war through education, counseling, advocacy, and accompaniment". A discussion on the possibility of a CPF in our parish will be added to our February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PROJECT for SENECA COUNTY  
2017 Report**

Total Number of Households Served:

Interlaken/Lodi	34
Ovid/Willard/Romulus	68
Sen. Falls/Fayette/Tyre/Varick	137
Waterloo/Border City/McDougal	<u>128</u>
	367

Total Number of People Served:

Interlaken	94
Ovid	245
Seneca Falls	549
Waterloo	<u>493</u>
	1381
	+ 45 Foster Care Children
	1426



Type of People	<u>60 &amp; over</u>	<u>Other Adults</u>	<u>Teens</u>	<u>Children</u>
Interlaken	16	46	5	27
Ovid	21	97	30	97
Seneca Falls	8	201	64	276
Waterloo	<u>15</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>221</u>
	60	+ 541	+ 159	+ 621 = 1381 + 45 = 1426

(Working with the Division of Human Services of Seneca County we provided gifts for 45 Foster Care Children)

Type of Services:	<u>Food Certificates only</u>	<u>Food/Gifts</u>
Interlaken	14	20
Ovid	29	39
Seneca Falls	11	126
Waterloo	<u>18</u>	<u>110</u>
	72	+ 295 = 367

## **Fellowship Committee**

Happy New Year 2018

The last Fellowship Committee meeting was Dec 6, 2017 @ 6 pm

Fr. Bernard presided over the committee with Phyllis Motill in attendance with two other parish members interested in helping with the Spring Dinner Dance. ( Terri Knebel and Mary Szymanski who are "new" to Fellowship)

We discussed venues, music, tickets and sales, greeters, advertising, prizes, themes, desserts and activities to promote intermingling of the guests.

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, Phyllis reported that she had secured a reservation for the dinner dance to be held at the American Legion in Trumansburg for Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

We briefly reviewed plans for the socials at the 3 churches for the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Since then, we have heard positive feedback.

Another Social scheduled is for Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> on the Feast of St. Patrick. Some of us would like to serve Irish Coffee after the Saturday evening Mass at St. Francis.

On Dec 15 I was notified that as a result of the Ministry Fair , 3 new ladies also want to join fellowship: Jeanette Baird, Karyn Marion and Camille Taranto. I have welcomed them via the phone!!!

Our next scheduled meeting is for Wed Feb 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at St. Francis with the main goal of appointing a chairperson for the Spring Dinner Dance and to finalize plans for St. Patrick's Day.

## **The Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy**

### **Word Committee Report**

**January 25, 2018**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, YOUTH: The religious education program classes have been ongoing since November. A schedule is posted in the churches. Remaining dates are February 4, 11, March 4, 11, 15 and April 29. With the new mass schedule, Religious education starts with the 9 am mass, with classroom instruction immediately following. We will start to take attendance at mass in February. At the end of the year, we will see how the new Religious ed format worked, with a online survey for the parents. First Communion will take place Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am at the church of St. James the Apostle. First Penance may be part of a larger, parish wide communal penance service on a Friday night in March, at the church of St. Francis Solanus. Final plans have not been made, but early thinking is a communal penance service, followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the (prospective) Communicants, followed by the Sacrament for anyone who wishes to receive. There may be a meatless meal/DTP to follow.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, HIGH SCHOOL: Confirmation classes are ongoing with Gerry Frank and Father Bernard Sunday evenings at St. James the Apostle

ADULT CATECHESIS: Nancy Shumway, along with Donna Wieand (Branches Christian Rest and Renewal Center, Seneca Lake) and Brenda Myc are conducting a parish wide, small group faith renewal program called Hearts Afire. (for more info, see Allheartsafire.org). The program was developed by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. It is a small group program, 6-12 participants, and the program occurs in three stages. Initially, it will begin in March on Thursdays at the parish house at Holy Cross in Ovid at 7 pm. Nancy Shumway, and Brenda and Donna are responsible for promotion of the program.

Andy Morpurgo, chair, word committee

The Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy Report to the Parish Council

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

January 24, 2018

I. Ministry Fair – November 2018

We had a significant amount of volunteers sign up for ministries at St. James and Holy Cross. The Worship committee and Fr. Bernard are working on reaching out to those who signed up. We also had a few parishioners sign up to be part of the Fellowship committee. These names were forwarded to Janice McLaughlin.

-Things to consider for next year:

- Find a better place to set up at St. James – parishioners at 5pm mass did not want to stop by the Pine Room
- Make the sign up sheets more user friendly
  - Include them as an insert to the bulletin the weekend before the ministry fair
  - Be sure to list contact information on sign up sheets for parishioners who would like to take them home and turn them in at a later time
  - Put sign up slips in the pews
  - Ushers collect sign up sheets during mass as part of second collection
- Continue ministry fair event once a year
- There is a need for ministers at the 5pm mass on Saturday at St. Francis

II. New Mass Schedule

The new mass schedule went into effect on January 6, 2018. The new mass schedule includes:

Saturday, 5pm	St. Francis
Sunday, 9am	St. James
Sunday 10:30am	Holy Cross

-initial report from Fr. Bernard is the change is going well. He has heard positive feedback, especially from parishioners at St. James.

-Some St. James parishioners have suggested that the Sunday mass schedule should be altered to allow Fr. Bernard time to engage with parishioners after mass – not a good time to change again

III. Christmas Masses 2017

The Christmas mass schedule changed this year due to Christmas Eve falling on the last Sunday of Advent. By all accounts masses were well attended. Christmas Day mass attendance was not great.

- IV. The Liturgy Planning Committee has been meeting regularly. They are currently planning for upcoming feast days and lent.
- V. The Worship Committee met on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 to speak about the schedule of services and masses for Triduum. The following was devised;

#### **Ash Wednesday**

Fr. Bernard will be out the entire month of February. Fr. John Mellet will preside.

- The Ash Wednesday Schedule for this year is as follows:
  - 9am Mass – St. James
  - 12:15pm Service – Holy Cross
  - 7:00pm Mass – St. Francis

#### **Lenten Reconciliation Service**

- Note the Diocesan Day of Penance and Mercy is schedule for Wed. March 14
  - This will take place at St. Francis
- Lenten Reconciliation Service scheduled for **Monday, March 26, 2018, 7pm, St. Francis** (Monday of Holy Week)

#### **Triduum Schedule**

- Note: there are no candidates for sacraments this year
- The Triduum schedule for this year is as follows:
  - Holy Thursday, 7pm, St. James
  - Good Friday, 3pm, Holy Cross
  - Easter Vigil, 8pm, St. Francis

#### **Easter Sunday Mass Schedule**

Regular Sunday mass schedule.

- VI. Upcoming
- a. Music Ministers Meeting to be scheduled in February
  - b. LPC Meetings – once a month

Submitted by Jessica Portillo on behalf of the Worship Committee