

Summary of Fellowship Meeting for the Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy

The Fellowship Committee met on Wed Feb 28 at 6pm with Father Bernard leading the opening prayer at St. Francis. Also present were Phyllis Motill, Camille Taranto, Lydia Kurkchi, Terri Knebel and myself, Janice McLaughlin.

We reviewed information for the "Spring Fling" Parish Dinner/ Dance for Saturday, April 28th from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the American Legion in Trumansburg. Music by the Tarps. Buffet with coffee and tea provided. We will provide soft drinks. Tickets \$25 per person. Children 10 and under free. Tickets will be printed and dispersed at the next meeting scheduled for Wed. Mar 28 at 6 pm at St. Francis. Plan is to sell beginning April 1st.

The Committee members are actively seeking donations for the door prizes. There are plans for a raffle. Guests are invited to bring a dessert to share. We are inquiring about a photographer. Terri L.Knebel's son may do it.

Then we discussed St. Patrick's Day and Camille offered to help me serve Irish Coffee.

On March first, I received information that Father is firming up a Theme Plan for the dinner dance and that, when it's confirmed, tickets will be printed by Phyllis.

On March fourth, it was so nice to see the announcement in the bulletin for the St. Patrick's Day Social. Irish Coffee after 5pm mass Saturday, March 17 at St. Francis Solanus and all are welcome.

Thank you everyone!
Submitted by Janice McLaughlin
e-mail 3/5/18

Mary Mother of Mercy Parish Council Witness Committee Report March 8, 2018

Public Policy Weekend The collection of signatures supporting passage of legislation enabling those brought as children to the United States illegally by their parents to remain in this country (Dream Act of 2017) took place on February 10th and 11th. The signature pages were gathered from all three churches and mailed to Deacon Gregory at Catholic Charities in Geneva.

SouperBowl of Caring Cash and food donations for our local food pantries were taken up the last weekend in January and the first weekend in February. At Holy Cross \$437 and 221 pounds of non-perishable food items were collected and donated to the Ovid Food Pantry. The Trumansburg Food Pantry received a \$300 check from Mary Mother of Mercy at the end of January. SouperBowl of Caring donations from St. James parishioners may have contributed to that total.

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 Holy Cross and St. Francis churches assist South Seneca in this effort. Donations were requested the last two weekends in February and the first weekend in March.

The amount collected will hopefully be available by the time the parish council meets this week. Over 50 South Seneca students are being helped this year. Approximately 36 students at the elementary school and close to 16 students at the middle school benefit from the program. 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. The school currently has 20 families on the backpack care program. This breaks down to providing food for 55 children and 36 adults.

Trumansburg Currently 33 students in the Trumansburg School District benefit. The Food Bank of the Southern Tier supplies the food items for the first *thirty* students (this is a change from last year when the Food Bank furnished items for the first 25) 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.

Peace Group Considerations The Witness Committee reviewed and discussed information from Pax Christi USA, Catholic Peace Fellowship and Tony Magliano (social justice and peace columnist). The committee felt the diocese should focus on the opioid epidemic in our community. Committee members involved in the dialogue felt they could make more of a difference, would share the same concerns and act in a unified fashion. The committee will seek more information from the columnist and keep a speaking engagement open for consideration. We felt this endeavor may fall within the Word Committee's guidelines.

Glove House Kathleen Carney of Glove House, Inc. requested an opportunity to speak with Mary Mother of Mercy parishioners about the need for foster care and adoptive parents. After review and discussion the Witness Committee supports Ms. Carney making a 5-10 minute presentation *after* one or more of our Masses and having a display table about Glove House set up for parishioners to view.

Prayer Chain The committee discussed ways in which they could better fulfill prayer requests. Prayers are requested through the church bulletin, but a *Prayer Call List* would support requests on a more timely basis. This practice is already implemented at St. Francis. The hope is to have Holy Cross and St. James active in the same way. Our suggestion is that those parishioners willing to initiate a call list can leave their name with the parish office and someone from St. Francis will return the call and help get them started. The Book of Intentions gives parishioners an opportunity to list a prayer request. The intentions are referenced as a whole during the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass.

Provided by Donna Brandow
E-mail 3/6/18

The Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy
Word Committee Report
March 8, 2018

The religious education teachers will have an upcoming meeting to review the year and start planning the summer session. It is yet to be scheduled.

Children's Stations of the Cross will be March 15, 2018, at St. Francis Solanus. A pizza dinner for the kids will follow.

First Communion will take place Sunday May 6th at 9am at the church of St. James the Apostle. First Penance may be part of a larger, communal penance service on a Friday night in March, at the church of St. Francis Solanus. Final date TBD. There may be a meatless meal/DTP to follow.

Confirmation classes are ongoing with Gerry Frank and Father Bernard Sunday evenings at St. James the Apostle.

During the January PC meeting, the idea of a paid DRE was raised. I looked into what surrounding parishes were doing.

St. Mary's in Watkins has a 35 hour/week director of faith formation. Some other jobs at the parish (which includes Odessa) are folded into the position.

St. Catherine of Siena in Cayuga Heights has a 35 hour/week position that includes the Youth Group, Sacrament prep for adults (e.g., Baptism) and RCIA

Immaculate Conception in Ithaca has a full time position with other duties folded in
All Saints in Lansing has a 10 hour/week paid DRE, for children, Confirmation, Youth Group

St. Francis and St. Clare in Waterloo has a 30 hour position with DRE and other duties
Holy Cross in Dryden- volunteer.

A paid DRE would have to attend quarterly meetings in Rochester. They run several hours. For volunteers, there are no compulsory meetings. A 10 hour/week position at \$15/hr runs about \$7500/year

Andy Morpurgo, chair, word committee
e-mail 3/8/18