

Mary, Mother of Mercy

Parish Council

Witness Committee Report

September 14, 2017

School Supply Collection

Seneca County School supplies were collected from Holy Cross and St. Francis Solanus parishioners for the "Fill the Bus" campaign during the month of July and during the first half of August. This was a United Way of Seneca County event, with a goal to provide basic school supplies for K through 12 students in all four districts of Seneca County. Donated school supplies were delivered, sorted and organized by volunteers at the Fayette Fire Hall on August 16th. The donations were given to each of the school districts based on enrollment, with distribution left to the discretion of the schools. Monetary donations were also accepted.

The initial figures are in, and United Way of Seneca County reports 17, 826 supplies and 866 dollars collected. These are the numbers as of September 1st. Supplies and donations are still coming in.

Tompkins County United Way Day of Caring is a community-wide drive in Tompkins County to benefit local students and residents. Individuals, groups and businesses in the county collect non-perishable food, personal care items and school supplies. School nurses in the Trumansburg school district request donated clothing, such as underwear and socks. On the Day of Caring these collected items are dropped off at one location, sorted and distributed. All donations stay in Tompkins County. This year the Day of Caring was on Wednesday, September 13th from 8 to 4 at Stewart Park under the large pavilion. Schools, pantries and community organizations benefit.

Winter Coat Collection

Seneca County Holy Cross and St. Francis Solanus churches have participated in this project for many years. The project asks parishioners to donate warm winter coats, hats, mittens/gloves and scarves in infant to adult sizes.

Donated coats are distributed on two different days. At the north end of the county on September 30th at St. Mary's school in Waterloo, and at the south end on October 7th at the Ovid VFW.

Tompkins County St. James asks for donations of hats, mittens and scarves. This has been organized as a Christmas project, but feedback received indicates it would better serve the community if the collection was conducted sooner. We will look at getting the "tree" for this drive set up for the fall months.

Thanksgiving Food Drive This is a social outreach activity in place for Holy Cross and St. Francis Solanus for the last week of October to mid November. Food is collected weekly for both food pantries in Ovid

and Interlaken. We will look into organizing a similar drive at St. James for the Trumansburg food pantry.

Christmas Project

Seneca County Applications for the Seneca County Christmas Project are taken on winter coat distribution days with initial collection of applications taken on September 19th at the Ovid Food Pantry and on September 22nd at the Interlaken Food Pantry. Both pantries take applications through the first week in November. The Waterloo Community Center and the Seneca Falls Community Center are the locations at the north end of Seneca County that take applications through the months of October and November.

The Christmas distribution will be at the Ovid VFW on Wednesday, December 13th.

Tompkins County St. James Women's Guild sponsored an Ulysses Christmas Bureau family last year with the St. James Youth Group helping with the shopping and wrapping. The hope is to have the St. James Women's Guild and the St. James Youth Group work together again with the Ulysses Christmas Bureau.

Mary, Mother of Mercy Parish Initial Fellowship Meeting Thurs. June 29, 2017 6-6:45pm

Present: Father Bernard Maloney, Gerard Messmer Co-chair, Janice McLaughlin Co-chair, Shirley Cleere alternate and Lydia Kurchi alternate

I Introductions

II Review of Information in Sunday Bulletin for June 25 regarding

- a) Feast Day of St. Francis Solanus July 16: 8:15am mass then breakfast
- b) Feast Day of St. James the Apostle July 25: 7:00pm mass then Ice Cream Social

III Parish Festival for Sunday, Sept 10, 2017

Mass at 1 pm at St. Fidelis Friary 7790 Co Rd 153 Interlaken, NY

No budget, just a donation box. There is a Parish Card for Wegman's

Attendees bring a dish to pass.

Hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages are provided

No live music as everyone will be dispersed around the grounds

Suggest swim suits, lawn chairs and yard games.

Lydia to e-mail Mary for Save the date to be placed in the bulletin.

Janice doodled a sample flyer to be inserted into the bulletin. Lydia to take flyer to artist for refining and then approval by Father.

Janice to contact Jackie Newhart regarding organizing picnic as she's done in the past.

IV Holy Cross Feast Day is Thursday, Sept 14

V Father instructed us to think about a Spring Dance such as Valentines Day or Mardi Gras.

To consider a different band than the last 2 dinner dances and

To bring this topic up at the next scheduled Pastoral Council Meeting.

Follow-up Fri June 30,2017

Jackie Newhart agreed to organize Parish Festival and get help from Michelle and her husband.

Jackie plans to put sign up sheets in all 3 churches.

Summary of Summer activities regarding the Fellowship Committee on this date September 12, 2017 By Janice McLaughlin co-chair

July 16: Feast of St. Francis Solanus: very nice breakfast after the 8:15am mass with approximately 40-50 in attendance. Thank you to Kevin and Michelle and others.

July 19: Invited by Liturgy Planning Committee to collaborate regarding the Parish Feast Day Mass and Celebration at the Friary for September 10 (please see their minutes of the meeting)

July 25: Feast Day of St. James the Apostle: lovely Ice Cream Social after the 7pm Mass. Thanks to all who provided a nicely decorated setting with lots of desserts!

During the first week of August, we put sign-up sheets provided by Lydia Kurchi, in each of the 3 churches for volunteers to sign up for posting parking signs and coordinating parking for the Mary, Mother of Mercy Feast Day: set-up and chairs, clean-up for which Janice Mc Laughlin volunteered to head up, and for drivers to help transport those in need. Several parishioners also signed up for what dishes they prepared to pass and share.

I was out of country for the Feast of the Assumption on August 15, 2017

August 30 : Liturgy Planning Committee initiated another gathering to finalize plans for Mary's Feast Day. I volunteered to mail postcards to each parishioner. Father wanted me to cross off the RSVP line so that no one would think the event was by invitation only.

September first: took 349 postcards to post office to mail

September 2nd: met with Father Bernard to help insert posters into the bulletins.

September 9th: Went to Holy Cross to help with chairs and tables for set-up at the Friary on Saturday. Brought some trash bags for clean up to the boat house.

September 10th: Had a beautiful feast day with perfect weather and a music-filled Holy Mass and Celebration. Good turn-out. Michelle purchased the meat and buns, etc and gave me the receipt to present at the September 14 Parish Council Meeting. Her husband brought ice in coolers. Shane cooked on the grill. Jessica provided all the utensils as well as coffee with filters, creamers and sugar. The porch was full, the deck was full and there was plenty of delicious side dishes and sweets to go along with the hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages.

It was so well coordinated starting with Father Bernard, Jessica and Mark & Kathy's hard work. So many with helping hands that we cannot possibly thank each one by name.

The only thing we might think about for next year is possibly some tablecloths; that might be a nice touch!

The Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy

Word Committee Report

September 14, 2017

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, YOUTH: The Religious Education weeklong summer program happened at the St. Fidelis Friary Boathouse the week of August 7-11. Jennifer Sharp, Michele Tingue, Jeannie Wiggins and Helen Arco spearheaded the efforts, and did an amazing job, but we had a lot of volunteers. There

were more challenges than anticipated (blue-green algae in the lake, lifeguard quitting) but the program was a success and the group learned a few things to help us next year. We had a lot of positive feedback from the parents. I think we even made a few dollars. The teachers will be meeting in the next week to form the curriculum for the rest of the year and to formulate makeup lessons for the students who were unable to attend. Upcoming meeting of teachers will be in a few weeks to finalize plans. As far as charging a fee for Religious Ed, I am not aware of any objections. I think there is some interest in having fundraisers over the year to help raise money for additional supplies for the kids (spaghetti Suppers, etc.)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, HIGH SCHOOL: Confirmation parents meeting was held for eighth graders on September 11, 2017 at the Parish Center. Gerry Frank to return for 2017-18

ADULT CATECHESIS: Looking for Ideas. 500th Anniversary of the reformation comes this fall. An opportunity?

Andy Morpurgo, chair, word committee

The Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy
Report to the Parish Council on behalf of the Worship Committee
September 14, 2017

The Worship Committee along with its subcommittee has been busy planning the Parish Feast Day Celebration which took place on Sunday, September 10. It was a great success with ~100 in attendance. Special thanks to Scott Hamula for coordinating the print materials (postcards, bulletin inserts, etc.), Mark and Kathy Sinkiewicz for coordinating decorations and set-up for mass, Janice McLaughlin for coordinating the picnic celebration. There were many others who helped – thanks to all!

In the August meeting, the Worship committee discussed upcoming events:
Parish Feast Day Celebration
Ministry Fair – (currently scheduled for October)

The LPC has been meeting regularly to plan special feast day mass including the Assumption of Mary, Feast days of St. Francis Solanus and St. James.

Music ministers met in August to discuss advent and Christmas.

The parish choir resumed rehearsals in August, rehearsing once a month. The next rehearsal is schedule for September 20, 2017.

The LPC will meet Wed. Sept. 13. I will fill everyone in at the Parish Council meeting.

Submitted by Jessica Portillo, chair