

## **Mary, Mother of Mercy, Parish Council Meeting of 11/10/2016**

**Present:** Michelle Barr, Fr. Bernard, Donna Brandow, Gerry Frank, Susan Houseknecht, Phyllis Kaiser, Cathy Millsbaugh, Andy Morpurgo, Amy Panek, Jessica Portillo, Kathleen Rourke, Ron Singer, and Barbara Willers

**Excused:** Charlotte Huyler, Pam Jasikoff, Jeanie Wiggins, Fr. Brendan

- **Opening Prayer:** “After an Election” from the USCCB
- **Minutes:** Minutes of our Oct. 13, 2016, meeting accepted with changes.
- **Committee reports:**  
Committee chairs are reminded to share electronic copies of their reports with Council members prior to meeting.

### Word committee (education and evangelization)

- There are thirty-four students in grades kindergarten through seventh grade. There are eight eighth graders and eight ninth graders in a combined confirmation program. There is a total of fifty students engaged in religious education in the parish.
- As an adult project for parishes, two books were suggested, one being *Rediscover Jesus* by Matthew Kelly (available from Dynamic Catholic for \$3).
- Last year’s bulletin had an announcement about free e-mail reflections. Andy will write one for daily prayer in your email for Advent and Lent.
- Advent edition of Magnificat for Advent or Word Among Us to give out to people?
- Phone App – Laude
- Christmas Mass for children will be at St. Francis and St. James at 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve. Helen Arko, coordinator for first communion, will organize the planning, beginning with a conference call with all teachers about how to do the Masses at both churches. Everyone will be able to hold on to their own traditions.
- There is four people are interested in RICA and they will be instructed by Fr. Bernard.

### Witness committee (social action):

- Applications are available at the food pantry for Seneca County Christmas program
- After the Oct. 15 coat drive, and left-over coats and hats were split between Romulus and Ovid and distributed. Mittens and hats were part of the Christmas distribution on Dec. 15 in Ovid.
- Angel Tree distribution will be on the Sunday before the Thanksgiving weekend at both St. Francis and Holy Cross.
- The mitten tree will be up at St. James on Nov. 27.

- The St. James Youth Group and Women's Group have both worked on the Christmas project in Tompkins county in previous years.
- Reverse Advent Box: Notices to go on bulletin boards and a flyer in church bulletin as a family project for Advent.

Fellowship committee (social activity and communication):

- see report prepared by the committee
- There were about 90 people at the dinner dance on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. No report yet on the financial returns of the dance.
- Ecumenical Thanksgiving reception in Ovid needs a place to sit and chat afterwards. Fr. Bernard suggests reception be in the parish rectory.
- St. James Women's guild is still in operation, no details yet on their meeting last Sunday.
- Communications: Jesssica prefers her contact list e-mail be the one on the web (that change has since been made)
- Logo: It is still a work in progress. Gerry is working on one that is based on a stole that Father owns.

Worship committee (liturgy) (see report)

- Ministry fair resulted in some new people for training. Father will take care of training new ministers. Gerry will help with training lectors and EM for Holy Cross and Kathleen will do the same for St. James. New training sessions should be publicized with hopes of getting some additional recruits.
- Planning for ecumenical service in Ovid is underway with some additional churches added. The Fellowship committee is working on the reception afterwards. There will be one group choir singing.
- Adoration during Advent morphed into day of reconciliation. Conversation regarding a service that would include prayer, adoration, and an opportunity for confession with music.
- There will be a rite to close out the Jubilee Year of Mercy on Sat. Nov. 12 at St. Francis. Books have been purchased for the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy which will be led in song.
- Confirmation sponsors: We were short of people but now students have found their own sponsors.
- Upcoming events:
  - Ecumenical Concert in T'burg on Dec. 4.
  - Music ministers have been invited to participate in a Christmas event at Trader's Village in Romulus
  - Parish choir is in rehearsals for Christmas

- Lent starts March 1: Need to look forward to making plans. Consider Bible study, Adoration (a quiet, contemplative time)/Benediction, different things at different churches, adoration 24/7/365 – not enough people to make it happen.
- Musicians will meet in February to discuss Lent. They may need additional people.
- Numbers at each of the weekend Masses have been given to Eileen who will share with the Worship committee. Where are we in terms how numbers changed since new schedule?
- No update on sound systems in each church.

**Building projects, finances, and staffing:**

- The new finance committee has not yet met as the paperwork for the civil part of the merge has been submitted to the courts and is waiting a reply.
- Annual reports will go out to each individual church next week.

**Next meeting:**

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 12, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis Solanus annex. It was decided that monthly meetings are helpful, though we will skip December and the summer. We will meet on the second Thursday in Jan., Feb., and March and then reexamine subsequent meetings. It should be noted that in April our guidelines suggest we make a determination about a need for new members, with selection of new members in May and new officers in June.

**Comments from Father:**

There is a lot going on which is a good thing. We still need to hear from Building and Grounds and Finance committees. The parish is indebted to the council members for their efforts. He counts on the council members acting as eyes and ears of the parish as to what is going on and happening. Father needs to listen to the members and get our counsel and he is open to anyone talking to him as concerns arise.

**Closing prayer:** The Hail Mary

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen E. Rourke ~*