

Mary, Mother of Mercy

Parish Council

Witness Committee Report

June 21, 2018

**Rice Bowl** Holy Cross Church collected over 300 dollars for Catholic Relief Services. St. Francis and St. James parishioners participated as well, but I do not have an amount total from their efforts.

**Glove House** Kathleen Carney of Glove House, Inc spoke to Mary, Mother of Mercy parishioners on the need for foster care and adoptive parents after each weekend Mass the weekend of April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Parishioners had the opportunity to meet with her after church to ask questions and collect literature. Her presentation and message were well received.

**Tony Magliano** The social justice and peace columnist from Maryland addressed parishioners briefly after each Mass the weekend of May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Magliano spoke again later Sunday afternoon at the St. Francis Solanus annex. The afternoon session was added and announced at Mass time, and the hope was to have those interested in his message return for the later engagement.

**Personal Care Item Collection** Personal care items are donated throughout the year, but during the month of May, an emphasis is put on the collection of these items. Personal care items are not covered by SNAP/Food Stamps. Holy Cross and St. Francis collected personal care items every weekend in May. A large plastic trunk of requested items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste and deodorant was brought to the Ovid Food Pantry. Community Bank (Interlaken) continues to serve as a collection site for community donations of personal care items. These donations are taken to the Interlaken Food Pantry. St. James collects such needed items on a weekly basis and donates locally when received.

### **School Supply Collection**

*Seneca County* United Way of Seneca County runs a coordinated county-wide effort to help local students. The 2018 **Fill the Bus** campaign will run from July 1<sup>st</sup> to August 16<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to provide basic school supplies to students in need at all four districts. The donations are given to each of the school districts based on enrollment. The schools determine the best way to distribute.

Individuals, businesses and organizations collect supplies. Holy Cross and St. Francis are among the collection sites at this end of the county and will begin accepting school supply donations in early July. On August 16<sup>th</sup> donated items will be moved to the Fayette Fire Hall on Route 414 South. Volunteers are needed on that day to help sort, organize and deliver supplies to the area schools. Items can also be dropped off on the day of the event. Monetary donations are also welcome.

*Tompkins County* United Way Day of Caring is a community-wide drive in Tompkins County that benefits local students. School supplies, personal care items and non perishable foods are collected by individuals, groups and businesses in the county. Donations of underwear and socks are encouraged. The school nurses in the area schools request these clothing donations. All collected items are dropped off at one location where they are sorted. Distribution is within Tompkins County. The United Way Day of Caring is typically scheduled in mid September. St. James parishioners have the opportunity to help schools, local food pantries and community organizations.

## Fellowship Meeting for Parish Council

Wed. 6/25/18

Fellowship met Wednesday Evening at 6 pm at St. Francis with the following in attendance: Janice McLaughlin (chair), Mary Szymanski, Scott Hamula, Norman Hummel, and Nancy Mc Gourty. Susan Gydosh was unable to attend but expressed great interest and submitted suggestions and support.

We opened with a prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Father Bernard extended his regret in not being present due to other scheduled commitments. He always wants to be present to answer questions and to make our committee work easier.

I showed the group a brief orientation to our supply closet for socials.

Camille e-mailed me to let us know that she is planning an Ice Cream Social for the Feast of St. James on July 25th. Mary and Nancy plan to assist.

For the Feast of St. Francis on July 14th, Norm and Scott are planning wine and cheese after the 5pm Sat mass. Norm is donating his own red wine and they are seeking donations.

For the Feast of the Assumption on August 15, St. James "team" is planning a coffee after the 9am mass.

St. Francis will host a light lunch after the 12:15 mass which might include coffee and cinnamon rolls and/or pizza by Janice.

There was no representatives from Holy Cross so I have an e-mail to 4 of the women there to get back with us for their Assumption mass at 7pm and Feast Day on Sept 14. Each member present has offered to assist them, if available, upon learning of their needs.

Some issues discussed which will be under Father Bernard's Direction are: Basket set out at functions for donations.

Proposal for Mary, Mother of Mercy Fund for Socials.

Church account as provided for Eileen to pay for refreshments.

Emphasis on dishes to pass to defray costs and burdens on any one person. Leftovers to be considered donated to Food Pantry as feasible.

We briefly reviewed the history of last years Porch Mass/ Picnic. Fellowship is standing by for notice regarding the Executive Committees call for planning of this year's event for September 9th.

No Fellowship Planning Committee scheduled at this time.

Team members exchanged contact information.

Done at 6:35 pm.