

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

### **WITNESS COMMITTEE**

14 May 2019

Present: D. Brandow, B. Butterer, J. Corcoran, G. Frank, L. Kawczenski, R. Lucas,  
R. Pell, J. Roach, J. Swanson, D. Traphagen

#### **CARD MINISTRY**

Discussed the on-going mailing of individualized cards to our parishioners who are either homebound or in residences outside the community. We have noticed that some of the names on the list have been returning to church for Mass, which is very nice to see.

#### **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS – PRODUCTS FOR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES**

During the month of May, parishioners donated personal care items for the clients of our local food pantries. While many personal care items have been donated to the food pantries throughout the year, during the month of May additional attention has been paid to these items as being needed on a constant basis; these items are not covered by SNAP / Food Stamps.

A request had been made to have an announcement at the end of Mass to “remind” everyone that there was one-week left for this campaign.

#### **SCHOOL SUPPLY ITEMS – “FILL THE BUS” SENECA COUNTY UNITED WAY**

Discussion regarding this project was centered on how best to ensure that the students had the necessary school supply items with them for their first days of school in September.

The Ovid library, last year, had a back to school event in which students were given a number of school supplies. This program was partly sponsored by Staples (Ithaca) through the STEPS program and Fidelis Care in addition to school supplies that were brought in to the library. All students in the area were eligible to attend and receive school supplies; this event has been scheduled for the end of August.

The process used for distribution of the school supplies at South Seneca is that the supplies are taken to the school office and secured in an area where teachers have access to the supplies and they can be gotten for the student as needed. In the Romulus school district, the supplies are handled through the nurse’s office.

During the meeting it was decided that the supplies collected at Holy Cross and St. Francis Solanus Churches should go the library’s program rather than the county wide drive to help ensure that students have school supplies on the first day of school.

On May 29, the Fill the Bus Committee had their first meeting and they (the committee) did not like the idea of the churches separating the supplies. They said the system was set up to eliminate every town doing their own thing. The committee felt there was a communication issue between the program and the school (South Seneca) when the supplies should be distributed to the qualified students before the first day of school. The library program identified Staples and another company as donators and felt it was not a part of Fill the Bus program. Phyllis Motill will contact the principal in Ovid to find out their process and get back to the committee.

As it currently stands, all school supplies collected at Holy Cross and St. Francis Solanus will continue to go toward the Fill the Bus program.

#### SENECA COUNTY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Registration for the Project begins in September, in the south end of the county at the food pantries in Interlaken and Ovid; in the north end of the county at the Waterloo Rec Center and the Seneca Falls Community Center.

Volunteers will be needed to assist in taking applications for the southern end of the county. More information to follow when it becomes available.

#### WINTER COAT DRIVE – OCTOBER

Currently dates of distribution have not been determined. Volunteers will be needed to assist in helping children find the appropriate coat and in taking applications for the SCCC. More information to follow when it becomes available.

#### SENECA COUNTY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Distribution will be the second Wednesday in December. Volunteers will be needed to assist with the distribution of items to families.

#### OTHER

The question had been raised as to how to get those parishioners from Trumansburg more involved in the programs that reach out to the community.

Submitted by: G. Frank

#### **Fellowship Committee Report, June 2019**

by Janice Mc Laughlin

No new meetings to report.

Much appreciation to all in attendance for St Francis Ascension Social.

Thanks to Holy Cross for Pentecost breakfast.

Acknowledgement to Phyllis and Kathy S. for being instrumental in planning Fathers Bernard's Anniversary celebration in Sept.

Grateful for post recovery prayers and excusal from meeting. If anyone would like to chair, Fellowship, please do so, otherwise, I will continue to serve.

Encouragement to Fellowship Members to follow through with socials for Feast of St Francis Sat July 13 and Feast of St James the Apostle Thursday July 25th.

I plan to fulfill expectations for the Feast of the Assumption social at St Francis after the Wednesday evening 6pm vigil on Aug 14th. Holy Cross & St James expressed having coffee/ get-togethers after their masses.

### **Word Committee Report June 13, 2019**

Rich Rasmussen had his last class last Sunday and from my survey of parents, the classes were well-received. The Parish is currently interviewing for a new part time DRE. Tim Davis did extensive research into the available on line programs. *Mycatholicfaithdelivered* and *catechismclass.com*. Tim published a lengthy summary of his findings, and I will try to summarize them here.

Looking at My Catholic Faith Delivered, it costs about 28 dollars for the year, and each grade year contains 30 lessons. The lessons would take around 30-40 minutes to complete. Tim found the lessons were not all that interactive, and he was worried about a child's attention drifting off. Most of the lessons are read to a child by a narrator, and Tim was worried this process would lose some kids.

Looking at CatechismClass.com, it costs 30 dollars for the year. There are 26 lessons for the grade year. Tim thought the parish could purchase access to all years for \$395.00 and this would allow any of the students to get online. There was also an alternative to grade curriculum called "Children's Course Offerings" which were organized into topics like "The Church and the Seven Sacraments" or "The Mass and Sacraments" or "The Pursuit of Morality" which would allow for all the children to work in one module and allow for "big group" meetings to share a meal and learn together.

Moving forward, the newly formed Word Committee would work with the new DRE to find an acceptable online learning program for the Parish children and families.

Andy Morpurgo, chair, word committee