

The Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy
Witness Committee

September 21, 2022
St. Francis Solanus Church Annex

Members present: Fr. B. Maloney, G. Frank, R. Pell, K. Salino, E. Sicuro,
P. Sicuro

Two County Parish – Seneca & Tompkins Counties

It was recognized that our parish encompasses two different counties with various organizations that focus on family welfare programs, that may be similar in nature but may not be exactly the same regarding scope and time.

Food Pantries

It was discussed and decided that food donations could be brought to all three churches any time to be taken to the local food pantry. Arrangements need to be made for someone to take the donations left at St. Francis Solanus to the Interlaken Food Pantry at the Reformed Church.

Card Ministry

The card ministry sends out cards or notes to out homebound and those in other living facilities. Those doing the card ministry are assigned one month per year to send the notes, however any one can additional cards or notes to those on the list other than the one month that they are assigned. Fr. Bernard reviewed and corrected the list which was subsequently sent to all those sending the cards or notes. All current card senders were asked if they would be willing to continue next year. There were currently two vacancies one of which was filled during the meeting.

Seneca County Community Christmas Project (Holy Cross & St. Francis)

Application taking at Food Pantries (September & October)

Coat Distribution (10/15)

Parents may bring children to the Ovid VFW for winter coats, hats & mittens. Volunteers help the children find the coat that they would like while the parents have an opportunity to complete an application for the Christmas Project.

Gift Distribution (12/14)

Residents from the southern end of Seneca County will be able to pick up the gifts purchased for their children from the requests made on the application forms at the Ovid VFW. Information will be mailed to the parent(s) the first week of December with information regarding time.

St. James Christmas Project(s) (Tompkins County)

Many of the events are planned with Catholic Charities of Tompkins County. We discussed the upcoming CROP (Christian Rural Oversees Program) Walk and there is a need for someone to coordinate for St. James.

Karen indicated that she would actually prefer to work on the CROP Walk in Trumansburg (which is October 9th this year). And I could help out with donations to the Trumansburg Food Pantry.

Walking With Moms in Need

We discussed the program for use within our parish, possibly to work in conjunction with the Family Life program at the Holy Cross Parish House.

Fr. Bernard thinks that it would be good for the local families. Father Bernard has asked for volunteers to help with the Walking with Women in Need campaign this past weekend. Hopefully someone will step up for this cause.

From Karen:

I did reach out to Catholic Charities about Walking With Moms in Need. I will forward the responses to you (GF). I wonder if we can find someone in the Parish who would be interested in taking on a leadership role for this effort.

Below are responses sent to Karen.

On Sep 22, 2022, at 4:28 PM, Shannon Kilbridge <Shannon.Loughlin@dor.org> wrote:

Hello Karen, Thank you so much for reaching out on the interest in Walking with Moms in Need! If you and your group have not already seen the manual, it can be found on LifeRoc, the diocesan Office of Life Issues website: <https://www.liferoc.org/respectlife/walking-with-moms-in-need-2/>

To my knowledge, the closest parish with a group starting up is St Mary's of the Lake/St. Benedict in Watkins Glen, but with Zoom you can certainly connect with others around the diocese for support. I am happy to meet with you to talk through how it might look in your community!

Peace,
Shannon

Good Morning Ladies,

I'm sorry that I didn't manage to get back to you all sooner. We were traveling over the weekend and I thought I'd have more time than I did.

So, maybe this information will help. I am currently the co-director of Birthright of Ithaca. Birthright believes "It is the right of every woman to give birth and for every child to be born". Birthright is an international organization that is now over 50 years old. Birthright of Ithaca has been servicing women in need in Tompkins, Seneca, Tioga, and Cortland counties for now over 40 years. Our mission is to help women in crisis or unplanned pregnancies, as well as women whom may have planned but need help. We offer free pregnancy tests, counseling and referral services, maternity and children's clothing, and diapers and formula. All our services are free and confidential. We service any woman in need regardless of race, creed, or age. All

our services are confidential. We meet our clients where they are at, always reaching out with love, compassion, and support; seeing the face of Jesus in each woman that walks through our door. We are a non-profit organization that relies on donations and grants to provide these services.

Several area churches (including Mother of Mercy) continually support us through allowing us to sell flowers there during our annual Mother's Day Flower Sale and providing needed items during the Giving Tree drive at Christmas time. However, because Birthright is an interdenominational organization, the diocese has not been able to fully contribute. We have been given several grants through the "Consistent Life Ethics" program, but in recent years, though I have reached out, I have not heard that this still exists.

Support of Birthright and the area pregnancy centers is one way to reach out. We are always looking for volunteers and ways in which to help other moms in need. We are hoping to start offering classes soon (spring of 2023) and are currently writing a grant request for this purpose. I hope these will reach out to more moms in need. It is a tough world out there and any support we can give is helpful.

I hope this info helps to answer some questions. If you wish to find out more about Birthright, feel free to email me or call me at 607-272-9070. I am definitely in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am - 1pm. Often, I am there on other days as well. As an aside, we are always looking for volunteers.

In Peace,
Beth Janowsky

Word Committee:

The Word Committee met on Oct.13 with Fr. Bernard, Charlie Mullins & Lynne Stager in attendance. Alba Betancourt-Trompa was unable to attend.

Fr. Bernard reported that the Religious Ed program that we are using involves the parents guiding their children through the lessons in the book. Once a month, after the Saturday 4:00 Mass, the family is invited to meet for dinner and a lesson with Fr. Bernard.

There are 4 children participating so far in the elementary program:

one first grader, two making their First Holy Communion, & one fourth grader

There are four "twens" participating in the Confirmation program, which is a two year program. (They are also meeting once a month for dinner & a lesson with Fr. Bernard on a different Saturday than the elementary kids).

We also talked about looking further into the possibility of the MagnifiKids magazine and it's cost, as well as reminding families of the "Family Zone Newsletter" which has activities and is available online.

Eucharist Revival: Lynne will do some research pertaining to the educational aspect of this revival.

Submitted by Lynne Stager

Worship Committee Zoom Meeting Oct. 26th at 7:00 pm

Attended by Fr. Bernard, Marc Albanese, Leo Kawczenski, Barb Willers, and Susan Guydosh

Excused- Ray Zajac

1. Special Mass schedules:

- Tuesday, November 1, 2022 – All Saints' Day. 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. James and 6:00 p.m. Mass at Holy Cross
- Wednesday, November 2, 2022 — All Souls Day. (Not a Holy Day of obligation) During the 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Francis the deceased, who had a funeral Mass or service at our Parish since All Souls Day last year, will be remembered. During the Mass a new candle will be lighted as each name is read.
- Thursday, December 8, 2022 – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. James and 6:00 p.m. Mass at Holy Cross.
- Thanksgiving — 4:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Mass on Wednesday, Nov. 23rd at St. Francis. There will be no Mass on Thanksgiving Day.
- Christmas — 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass at St. James, 8:00 p.m. Vigil Mass at Holy Cross, and 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass at St. Francis.

2. Confession during Advent

After the Holy Day Masses on Dec. 8th Confession will be offered.

— After the 9:00 am Mass at St. James

— After the 6:00 pm Mass at Holy Cross

Confession will also be offered on—

Dec. 14th 6:30-7:30 pm at St. James

Dec. 15th 6:30-7:30 pm at Holy Cross

Dec. 16th 6:30-7:30 pm at St. Francis

Also, the usual 6:30-7:30 pm Confession time on every Fri. at St Francis

3. Communion under both species — reactivate. Nothing has come from the Diocese on this, yet. Will hope to reactivate this by Holy Thursday 2023.

4. Scheduled meetings for Lectors to review procedures.

There will be two scheduled times to choose from:

Sat., Nov. 12th, 11:00 am at St. James

Sat., Nov 19th, 11:00 am at Holy Cross

Each Lector needs to choose one day to attend.

5. Music at Sunday Liturgies. There is a ongoing need for organists and music leaders.

Will look into possible musicians from Cornell or Ithaca College music departments.

6. Call for more altar servers and ushers. Will be reaching out for new people to join these ministries.

7. Christmas Church decorators — parish needs to confirm who they are.

8. National Eucharistic Revival was discussed

—There will be more bulletin announcements of activities going on around the diocese.

—We will pray for the Revival during Intercessory prayers during Mass.

— Adoration , Holy Hour, is being considered

— Homily on the real presence was discussed, but the homily has to pertain to the gospel
—dor.org and click on —Join us in the National Eucharistic Revival (will have in bulletin)

October 11,2022 Fellowship Committee Meeting

Zoom Meeting 6:30 PM

Members Present: Scott Hamula, Russ Wedermeyer, Marty Woledge

Absent: Jackie Leidenfrost

Prayer: Father Bernard opened with a prayer.

We wanted to brainstorm ideas for the upcoming 2022-2023 church year for our committee. And we certainly did.

We want to spark interest back into coming back to Mass and to hopefully encourage younger folks to attend with their families.

Also to combine the three churches in activities is important. A strong ability to reach out in all three areas!

okay....here we go....

From a Preparing for the Birth of Jesus gathering on Sunday December 18th, between 1pm and 4pm!

Held at St. James Church to provide the Pine Room as a place for luncheon items to be placed...(potluck Luncheon items provided by those attending)

cookies are welcome but luncheon foods also. We think the A-H bring one type of food item and I-P Bring another and Q-Z bring another..

Story time, about the journey being made by Joseph and Mary to await the birth. Craft area where decorations can be made ..paper chains for the

Christmas Trees for all three parish churches. And other little surprises. It was also suggested three families needing some extra help with children

through the Christmas season be asked to attend and gifts given. All attending bring one small gift to give. We would hope Santa could arrive,

and any child there receive a gift also. More information will follow.

I want to thank Russ for his suggestion and passion about this idea! We felt right away this was a great idea.

Now about the other idea's! A St. Valentines cookie and punch after Mass the Sunday closest to that date and a Valentine exchange.

Yes, others but let us see how the first one sparks parish unity and attendance.

Father Bernard closed with a prayer at 7:30pm

Agenda:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approval of Minutes from September Meeting (Susan to forward)
3. Committee Reports & Discussion
4. Business Update (Finance, Buildings & Grounds)
5. Other Business
6. Closing Prayer