

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
October 3, 2017

Council Members Present: Jim Chitwood, Tom Cordaro, Julie Lomax, Mary Oliphant, Brian Pelz, Sam Schroeder, Dave Schwartz, Kristen Slevnik, Peggy Soeldner, Carrie Tilton, Carl Van Dril, Don Wenig

Council Members Absent: Fr. Paul Hottinger

Parish Leadership Members Present: Sr. Madelyn Gould, Adrian Jaworski, Dan Lawler

Finance Committee Representatives Present: Mike Prus, Sue Schroeder

OPENING AND PRAYER: Council President Carl Van Dril called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Upper Room. Don Wenig offered an opening prayer.

PARISH LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY WORK – “YEAR ONE” DISCERNMENT:

Tom Cordaro led the Parish Leadership Community in an hour-long session, continuing its work from last month. Participants met in small groups, discussing what insights and wisdom they gained from the pre-assigned readings on Catholic Teachings and Traditions in correlation with how our parish community might respond to the signs of the times. Each of the small groups then summarized and shared the four insights they had collectively gained from these readings.

Tom will summarize and send out shortly the insights which were noted by tonight's small groups, further showing how these insights are grounded in the understanding of our faith. He also noted the following dates:

- by 10/20/17, the Parish Leadership Community should submit to Tom a list of stories, passages, images, or metaphors from Scripture (especially from Luke and Acts) which most powerfully resonate;
- by 10/26/17, Tom will compile these responses into a single document to be studied and prayerfully reflected on;
- and on 11/7/17, the Parish Leadership Community will meet for the last time at 7:00 p.m. to complete Step Four of the Parish Discernment process.

Prior to their dismissal, the Parish Leadership Member attendees were thanked for participating in tonight's workshop format with Council Members.

Following this, Council took a short break from 8:05-8:10 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Don Wenig.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2017 MEETING MINUTES: Council viewed the added change requests to the September final draft minutes, as submitted shortly before tonight's meeting by Julie Lomax. After this, **Julie Lomax moved to approve the minutes from September 5, 2017, with Jim Chitwood seconding, and the Council approving these.** The minutes, along with Commission reports, will now be posted onto

the Council's web page. Council Secretary Peggy Soeldner will provide a summary of these for the parish bulletin.

FINANCE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION: Carl welcomed Finance Committee Members Sue Schroeder (Finance Committee Chair) and Mike Prus (Parish Business Manager) and thanked them for attending this portion of tonight's Council meeting. He also thanked them for the thorough "Fiscal 2017 -- July 2016 to June 2017 12-Month Financial Report," which appeared in this past Sunday's parish bulletin. According to Sue Schroeder, contributions have remained flat. The Finance Committee has been very conservative with parish revenue projections for FY 2017/18; the parish staff and Commissions continue to spend parish funds wisely; revenue was \$78.5K below budget; Sunday collections were below budget by \$11K; and funds continue to be set aside in the Repair and Replacement Fund..

When Council had approved the parish budget (on 5/2/17) for FY 2017/18 with a \$32K deficit, this was done with a special challenge made to the Council and Stewardship Committee to help raise an additional \$32K to offset this. It requested that Council should continue to closely review the Parish Budget throughout 2017-18 with the Finance Committee. Council shared updates tonight about the Stewardship Committee's current efforts to increase the amount of parishioners using online automated giving and to increase planned giving. According to the Finance Committee, it is more likely that any future contributions received through planned giving, e.g. through bequests, might be designated for specified parish projects vs. parish general operational expenses.

Council plans to continue discussing the parish finances on a monthly basis, and automated giving will be tracked. After the Finance Committee reviews raw data regarding parish collections, they will send reports on to Don Wenig (Stewardship Committee) for Council's monthly review. Council noted that the short Parish Financial Snapshot, which Don had sent in advance, was very helpful. It was also noted that the Finance Committee typically experiences a 5-week delay before receiving parish raw financial reports. According to schedule, the Finance Committee will start planning in December for the parish's 2017-18 budget; will prepare its preliminary parish budget for 2017-18 in January; and will present this preliminary budget to Council in February.

Prior to their dismissal, Carl thanked Sue Schroeder and Mike Prus for attending tonight's meeting to update Council about parish finances.

SMMP'S BIG DAY OF SERVICE (11/18/17): Julie Lomax and Carrie Tilton reported that planning is going well for this upcoming service day on 11/18/17. Volunteer sign-up information will run in the parish bulletin starting on the Week of 10/15/17 and will be done online through SignUp Genius. Information about this Day of Service will also be sent out through other forms of social media. Youth Representatives Sam Schroeder and Kristen Slevnik were asked to assist with social media for this. Carrie and Julie will talk with teen students in the Chosen Program, and Kristen will talk with teens in Peer

Ministry about this day of service. Sam Schroeder reported his interest in helping with video editing through a friend.

DISCUSSION ABOUT DECREASED ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY MASS: According to Dave Schwartz , the Ushers are taking attendance counts at each of the Saturday/Sunday Masses during the month of October, with data to be submitted to the Diocese. Between 2013-16, a 20% decline in attendance was noted, with a continued decline anticipated in 2017. Similar declining attendance trends are seen across various parishes in the USA. SMMP's congregation is aging, and there are smaller families.

As many parishioners no longer attend weekly Mass, Council noted the importance of communicating that weekly attendance and volunteerism are still valued; and that sign-up for automated giving is important, especially in light of some parishioners' more sporadic Mass attendance.

Information about this month's change from the automated online giving system ParishPay to WeShare will be forthcoming in this Sunday's parish bulletin. This transition should be a very easy one for those who are already signed up for automated giving.

DISCUSSION ABOUT COUNCIL'S MEETING TIME CONSTRAINTS: Council expressed some frustration, as it discussed the lack of available time needed to cover some important business topics at last month's and tonight's Council meetings. This is due to greatly reduced "business" meeting time scheduled in tandem with the hour-long "Year One" Discernment Work at both of these Council meetings. This hour-long discernment work is also planned for the November Council meeting.

Tom Cordaro noted that the "Year One" Discernment Work is more intense than that of the following two years within the three-year cycle. Prior to this year, the Parish Leadership Staff had previously done their discernment work separately as a group during the work day. He also noted that only a small group of Parish Staff are optionally participating in the current "Year One" Discernment Work, with Council comprising the majority of participants. In addition, Adrian Jaworski is the sole Leadership Community participant from the Adult Formation Group, despite the entire group's being invited to participate in this parish discernment.

Carl reminded Council to only give brief reports and statements as part of a valiant effort to end each Council meeting by 9 p.m. Nevertheless, the list of "Overflow Agenda Topics" continues to be carried over to the following month. It was also noted that the regular "Commission Reports" section for tonight's meeting is being eliminated, unless there is a pertinent topic needing discussion.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Administration: [*Saint Margaret Mary Parish Administration Commission Minutes of Tuesday, September 6, 2017* was electronically submitted in advance by Mike Prus, a copy of which is shown hereto].

There was no discussion pertaining to the Administration report. No Administration Representative was present during this part of the meeting.

Christian Worship (CWC): [*Christian Worship Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council – October 2017* was electronically submitted in advance by Brian Pelz, a copy of which is shown hereto].

According to Brian Pelz, CWC Representative, the Liturgy Committee was in consensus about having a permanent parish “Information/Help Desk.” The Liturgy Committee would like it to be located in the Parish Library [where the current Military Ministry display is]. They would like the desk to be staffed during the Saturday/Sunday Masses.

Council requested that the Liturgy Committee submit plans and further information for a parish “Information/Help Desk” prior to next month’s meeting, which Council will review as an agenda item. Council also requested that the Liturgy Committee submit further information about the desk’s staffing and location. [In subsidiarity, Council had previously requested that the Liturgy Committee further investigate and provide input about a parish “Information/Help Desk”].

Christian Education (CEC): [*Christian Education Commission – September 2017 Ministry Reports* were electronically submitted in advance by Julie Lomax, a copy of which is shown hereto].

There was no discussion about the CEC Report, as directed to Julie Lomax, CEC Representative.

Christian Service (CSC): [*Christian Service Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council – October 3, 2017* was electronically submitted in advance by Carrie Tilton, a copy of which is shown hereto].

There was no discussion about the CSC Report, as directed to Carrie Tilton, CSC Representative.

Tom Cordaro reported on the Earth Care Committee’s Action Request to explore the possibility of converting a patch of the parish’s east lawn into native wildflowers and grasses. The native plants would provide a habitat for butterflies and other pollinators; and their deep root system would help reduce storm water runoff. In this way, SMMP could work toward advancing the goals outlined by Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation *Laudato Si*. Additional information about this will be forthcoming in the parish bulletin.

OTHER: There were some questions posed to Tom Cordaro tonight about whether or not an upcoming postcard-signing campaign to legislators about allowing refugees into the USA might be too political and polarizing within the parish. It was noted that the

topic of welcoming and helping the refugees who are already here might be less polarizing. Tom noted that any postcard signing is always offered on an optional basis; and that such an activity is closely tied to a corresponding Catholic Social Mission Week topic. According to Tom, SMMP holds four designated Catholic Social Mission Weeks per year.

There were some additional questions posed to Tom about whether or not the Pro-Life Committee closely works with him, e.g. promoting parish awareness about abortion-related legislation, conducting postcard signing campaigns to legislators; and tying these in with Catholic Social Mission Weeks. Tom noted that the Pro-Life Committee continues to work independently within the parish and community and take responsibility within the parish for issues related to abortion and contraception. Interested parishioners should consider joining the Pro-Life Committee to work on these issues. [Any postcard- or petition-signing campaigns need to be cleared and scheduled in advance with the Parish Business Manager and be put on the parish calendar].

OVERFLOW AGENDA TOPICS: The following items, carried over from the previous meeting due to lack of time, were not covered tonight due to continuing time constraints:

- Communications Coordinator Update
- Stewardship Committee Update
- “Orphaned Ministries”
- Parish Document Repository
- Pastoral Council Constitution Update
- Volunteer Management/ Recruitment
- Deacon Fred’s Retirement

“WHAT ARE WE HEARING FROM PARISHIONERS?” – DISCUSSION:

- Numerous parishioners have continued to express dissatisfaction about the Sunday bulletins being “hidden” until their distribution after Mass. This topic will be put on next month’s meeting agenda for discussion with Fr. Paul.
- The parish’s new electronic sign has received numerous compliments. However, the banners on the fence block some of the electronic sign’s message and might need to be relocated.
- It was especially noted how many parish events were scheduled two weeks ago. To some parishioners, it seemed overwhelming with too many things going on at one time, accompanied by very lengthy before-Mass announcements about these. [It was also noted what an actively engaged parish SMMP is].

FINAL “WHIP” AROUND: Comments included:

- “It was a heck of a meeting.”
- “Dialogue begins with dialogue.”

- “We need more time to cover a lot of things.”
- “We covered a lot tonight.”
- “Good conversation tonight.”
- “Good meeting, although we ran late.”
- “I liked tonight’s dialogue, including contrary opinions.”
- “We need time for such dialogue.”
- “I’m ready for more difficult topics.”
- “Good meeting.”

CLOSING: Don Wenig offered a closing prayer. The meeting ended at 9:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on November 7, 2017, in the Upper Room, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Opening/Closing Prayer: Dave Schwartz
Refreshments: Dave Schwartz

Respectfully submitted,
 Marlyn Ligner Steury
 Recording Secretary

**SAINT MARGARET MARY PARISH
 ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION
 Minutes of Tuesday, September 6, 2017**

Members Present: Tom Hill, Jeff Jameson, Anne Lysaught, Michael Prus, Klaus Rummer, Bob Stezowski.

Members Absent: Chuck Marquis, Sue Schroeder.

1. Opening Prayer: Led by Bob Stezowski.

The Commission welcomed Anne Lysaught, a long-active parishioner who has served in many committees and projects.

2. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the May 9 meeting were approved “by acclamation”, without changes.

3. Discussion/Decision Items:

A. Snow Removal contract

Mike Prus presented a proposal from Green Grass, Inc., to continue its service of snow removal for the parish. The pricing is the same as last year. The commission approved this proposal, and recommended that Mike exercise the option to extend the contract for two winters, through 2018-19. Mike will follow through with the contract.

B. Possible HVAC maintenance agreement

Mike had received a proposal from Amber Mechanical, for a maintenance contract for our HVAC equipment. Amber has serviced our equipment in recent years, and installed the church AHU. We have had such maintenance contracts in the past, with our former vendor Tradewinds, but have not had such a contract in recent years. After discussion, the Commission agreed that the figures seemed high, and that other options should be considered. Mike will work with Jeff to surface other possible vendors. It remains an open question whether to eventually accept the proposal from Amber or any other contractor.

C. Scheduling future meeting(s)

The commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, November 29, at 7:30 PM.

4. Member Reports and Discussion:

A. Chuck Marquis: Absent.

B. Bob Stezowski, Building Manager: Bob is currently studying the HVAC system for the Chapel area, with assistance from Amber Mechanical. Bob plans to follow up with Amber.

C. Sue Schroeder, Finance: Absent.

D. Michael Prus, Business Manager: 1) Financial reporting for the year end, required by the diocese has been completed. 2) Sue Schroeder and Mike prepared the parish's response to its recent financial audit, and now await response from the diocese. 3) The new phone system for the parish was installed in June, and has generally worked quite well. 4) The planned work on our parking lots, (asphalting, sealcoating, and striping) was completed during the summer. 5) Mike highlighted the good work done this summer by Bob and Ziggy for their work painting many of the classrooms, and correcting problems with some of the walls between classrooms. 6) Mike described the current project to replace two of our copiers in the RE work area. Proposals have been received and the working group with RE staff will likely make a decision very soon.

E. Tom Hill, Chairperson & Building Committee: No further report.

F. Jeff Jameson, At Large Delegate: No further report.

G. Klaus Rummer: The Men's Club is in need of volunteers for the picnic this weekend.

5. New Business: None.

6. Evaluation: A fine meeting. This meeting marked the last meeting for Tom Hill. Tom has served on the Administration Commission for 23 years; he served as chairperson for many of these years, and exercised leadership in many projects. On behalf of the parish, the Commission extended its deep thanks to Tom for all his dedicated service.

7. Closing Prayer: Led by Jeff Jameson.

Submitted by Mike Prus

**Christian Worship Commission
Monthly Report to Parish Council
October 2017**

Open Items:

- CWC By-Laws amendments revisions completed and approved.
- Review and improve the process of establishing Gift Bearers

CWC Chair:

- There was no CWC meeting held in September
- Bob Presnak is the new Baptism Assistants coordinator. Welcome Bob.
- Thank you to Tom Zakosek for his time and dedication over the years with establishing meaningful and effective procedures for scheduling and ministering the sacrament of Baptism at SMM. Thank you Tom!

Youth Altar Servers:

- Nothing to report

Family Altar Servers:

- Nothing to report

Art & Environment:

- Nothing to report

Baptism Assistants:

- Bob Presnak is the new Baptism Assistants coordinator. Welcome Bob.

Bread Bakers:

- Nothing to report

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Training sessions planned for Oct 14 and Oct 16. Some parishioners who attend 12 noon will be attending the training.
- At these training sessions, Felicia will introduce the new locations for the EMs when they are done serving their line. Will send an email to all EMs about the new locations. Blue painters tape will be on carpet so EMs will know where to stand. It will take a few weeks to get all EMs acclimated to the new procedures.
- Felicia is attending 8AM mass to remind Deacons and educate EMs about the new procedures for serving the choir.

Greeters:

- Will begin the annual count of Mass attendance beginning the first week in October. Attendance will be counted at the Saturday and Sunday masses for four weeks in October.

Lectors:

- Nothing to report

Linen Launderers:

- Nothing to report

Liturgy Development:

- Continuing discussions to finalize a trial implementation of the help desk.

Music:

- Lumen Christ and Contemporary choirs sang at St. Vincent de Paul on Sunday September 17 at 10:00 AM mass, celebrating with Fr. Pat. There was a lunch and fellowship after mass. Thank you to all at St. Vincent's for the invitation, the celebration and the incredible hospitality.
- John is rehearsing a "Lessons and Carols" celebration with the Lumen Christi choir and members of the Contemporary choir. The "Lessons and Carols" celebration is scheduled for December 3rd at 7:00 PM. (1st Sunday of Advent).

Sacristans:

- Nothing to report

Gift Bearers:

- The Knights have been using the SMMP online sign up. Bob Presnak will be providing feedback and input regarding the sign-up process.

Submitted by Brian Pelz

Christian Education Commission

September 2017

Ministry Reports

ADULT FAITH FORMATION – Sister Madelyn

BIBLE STUDY - 55 are registered. Focus of study: St. Paul's letters written in prison.

SATURDAY MORNING LIVE! - 52 attended the session titled "Quest for Life's Best" given by Mark LeBlanc. Had to move the presentation to the Upper Room as we needed more space!! Next month: "What's Your E. I.?"

EVENING ENRICHMENT - "What Have We Learned From Luther?" will be presented Wednesday evening by FR. Paul and Pastor Lou Quetel. The session will be repeated the morning of Oct. 11th

MORNING ENRICHMENT – Kate Devries provided our opening session on September 13. Only 17 attended.

REFLECTION DAYS – Fourteen are registered for the Day of Quiet to be held at St. Procopius Abbey on Sept 29th. Sr. Madelyn will facilitate the day entitled "St Francis: Model of Holiness."

Sixty are registered for Adventures in Contemplation! This is an 8 month program focusing on contemplative prayer. We will have three half day retreats and meetings the first and third Monday of each month (7:00–9:00 pm). Al Gustafson will facilitate the sessions that will be held in the Upper Room.

RETREATS: The Men's CRHP retreat has been cancelled for November due to low registration numbers. This cancellation will end Men's CRHP as we have known it. A one-day retreat for men is under discussion. As for Women's CRHP, it will continue. At present, thirteen women are preparing to give the retreat in January. Recruitment is underway.

RCIA – We have only one catechumen this year – Max Leightman. We meet with him on Sunday mornings from 8:15-9:30 a.m. He attends the 10:00 Mass, but we are not doing the Dismissal Rite.

OTHER: Women's Cafe has met twice, hosting approximately 25 women at each session. Response has been positive.

"Living Well While Facing Mortality" is being offered October 22 by Barbara Burkhardt and Rebekah Ascensio. At present, registrations are low.

“Mompotent – A Program for Mom’s of All Ages” is being launched on October 4th by Caitlin Sica. See bulletin for details

Marcia Mackenbrock and Sr. Madelyn have been invited by St Scholastica Parish to give an Advent Evening of Reflection on Nov. 30th. Planning has begun.

Religious Education – K to 5th Grade – Sue Davey

Classes started Saturday, September 11th. All classes have a catechist.

On Saturday, August 26th, RE and Youth Ministry had a combined Catechist/Leader Day. Katie Diltz from the Notre Dame Echo program did a presentation on “Building the Kingdom”. The program included a prayer service. We then broke into two groups (by grade level) for a best practices discussion led by Katie and communicating with parents led by me. Approximately 50 catechists and leaders attended.

Two “New” Catechist workshops were held on August 30th. Nine catechists attended.

Liturgy of the Word for Children resumed on Sunday, September 10th. Jo Ann Jeffreys agreed to continue as coordinator. Due to low participation, the service at the Saturday 5pm Mass was cancelled. We are still offering the service at the 8:00 and 10:00 Masses. The leaders will meet in November to discuss the changes in scheduling and will decide if further modifications are required.

Catechetical Sunday was September 17th. Deacon Ken Miles prepared a blessing for the catechists at the weekend Masses.

A Protecting God’s Children workshop was held on Saturday, September 9th. A second workshop was held on Wednesday, September 20th.

On Saturday, October 7th we will have a special blessing of pets in celebration of the Feast St. Francis of Assisi. Due to school holiday weekend, I am having trouble getting readers for the service.

First Reconciliation information was mailed to parents. The first parent only meeting is Tuesday, October 20th. The retreat is scheduled for Saturday, November 4th. ASCA has provided us with information regarding children involved in sacrament preparation.

Invitations have gone out to First Communicants parents inviting them to attend one of the Sacramental Parent Retreats. We are offering two this year: October 22nd and February 4th.

The first of the three First Communion Blessings rites will be the weekend of October 28th and 29th.

Youth Ministry – Dan Lawler

Our Peer Ministers have begun preparing for our 9th grade retreat which will be focused on Encountering Jesus through the Emmaus story. We are discerning our leadership roles right now and have some really good leaders in this year's group.

The annual Rite of Calling and Sponsor Meeting for confirmation candidates will be on Sunday October 15th at the 12 pm Mass. We are hosting our Parent Sacrament retreat on Sunday October 22nd for 1st communion and 10th grade parents whose youth are preparing for the sacraments.

We are beginning preparations for our annual Harvest Sunday food drive which will take place on Sunday, November 5th.

All Saints Catholic Academy

Project SMILE - This past spring, **All Saints Catholic Academy joined with elementary and middle school teachers from Indian Prairie School District 204 and West Aurora District 129 in receiving a \$500,000 two-year grant** from the Illinois State Board of Education. This grant **fostered Project SMILE (Science and Math In Line with Engineering)**, a program placing teachers into college laboratories and businesses where science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills are applied every day.

Reports Compiled and Submitted by Julie Lomax,

**Christian Service Commission
Monthly Report to Parish Council
October 3, 2017**

Bereavement:

We prayed at our meeting and had discussion on current and new cases; we have maybe 2 new volunteers interested in joining the Bereavement Ministry from the after mass meetups this weekend!
(Submitted by Patti McGehee)

Blood Drive:

Activities for September 2017

- Knights are in the process of completing the organizing for the 2017 SMMP Blood Drive to be held on Saturday October 21, 2017.
- Blood Drive sign-up will be held before and after the Masses the weekends of September 7/8 and September 14/15.

- Knights will be initiating a previous donor phone list to contact for the upcoming Blood Drive.
- Knights received training for the phone tree calls to prospective blood donors from Sarah Horne of Heartland at their September Business Meeting.

(Submitted by Dan Patt on behalf of the Knights of Columbus)

Boy Scouts (Troop 507):

Boy Scout Troop 507 provided trash duties and take down services at the parish picnic on September 10.

(Submitted by Ramona Vaikutis)

Charitable Contributions:

The September meeting of the Charitable Contributions Committee (CCC) was held on Tuesday September 12, 2016. The second Tuesday of each month at 7:15 pm is the CCC regular meeting time.

Actions Taken:

During the meeting, information concerning 14 organizations was distributed to CCC members for visits. As many actions as possible will be taken at the October meeting. One additional organization will wait for review, pending receipt of their financial information. The 14 organizations requested a combined total of \$46,192 in grants against a CCC budget of \$40,500. CCC previously capped an award to any one organization within a fiscal year at a maximum of \$2,500. The members agreed to keep an award to any one organization at the maximum of \$2,500 for this fiscal year as well.

Ann Schwartz will continue as CCC Chair this year, John Rossi will continue as Secretary, and Joe Straka will continue as the Representative to the Christian Service Commission.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday October 10, 2017, Room 8 at 7:15 pm

(Submitted by Joe Straka)

Christmas Giving Tree:

The Giving Tree Committee has set up its timeline and committee assignments. Promotion begins Oct. 14/15 weekend. Pre-registration begins Oct. 28th and ends Nov. 20th. Sign-Up Sunday will be Dec. 2/3 weekend. Giving Tree Gift Drop off will be December 16th.

(Submitted by Tom Cordaro)

Comfort Care Ministry (Funeral Luncheons, Emergency Meals): No report

(Kathy Kalina)

Cub Scouts (Pack 507):

Cub Master - Tim Tilton

Committee Chairman - Brian Burgner

September Activities:

- Fall Roundup (recruiting) Pack Meeting, on September 21st was well attended

October Activities:

- Pack rocket launch, Sunday, October 8th
- Fishing Derby, Sunday October 15th
- Pumpkin contest and fire safety (during Pack meeting, Thursday, Oct 19th)
- Forest preserve clean up (Saturday, October 28th)

(Submitted by Tim Tilton)

Daybreak Transitional Housing:

Looking forward to our first Trivia Night and hoping it is a success with parishioners.

(Submitted by Pat McAuliffe)

Knights of Columbus:

Activities for September 2017

- Knights marched in the Naperville Labor Day Parade with other Naperville Councils.
- Knights helped with Baptisms; now helping on all four Sundays of the month after the 12 Noon Mass.
- Knights helped with the Men's Club Parish Picnic.
- Knights collected donations for the Intellectually Disadvantaged with the Annual Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive at street corners on September 15th and September 16th.
- Knights sponsored and cooked BBQ for PADS clients on Thursday, September 21st featuring Hamburgers, hot dogs, bratwurst and polish sausages with all the trimmings. Greatly appreciated by all partaking of the "special" meal.
- Knights helped with the clean-up and dirty laundry collection at PADS and delivery to the Edward Hospital Laundry on Friday September 22nd.
- Knights collected donations for the Intellectually Disadvantaged with the Annual Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive after all the Masses on September 23rd and September 24th.
- Knights volunteered at Special Olympics Volleyball on Sunday September 24th.
- Knights volunteered at Loaves and Fishes on Saturday September 23rd, Wednesday September 27th and Thursday September 28th to help distribute food to their clients.
- Knights held their monthly business/social meeting on Thursday September 28th with 18 members attending.
- Knights collected donations for the Intellectually Disadvantaged with the Annual Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive at Mariano's and at Ace Hardware on September 29th and September 30th.

(Submitted by Dan Patt)

Men's Club:

Bob Presnak from the Knights is now in charge of Baptisms: rgpresnak@comcast.net

(Submitted by Tom Zakosek)

Nursery: No report

(Cailin Ramirez)

Pastoral Care: No report
(Fred Straub)

Peace & Justice Advisory Working Group:

Our first parish social mission weekend went well. We collected 212 signed postcards for each of our U.S. Senators urging their support of the bipartisan Sentencing and Reform Act. Our next social mission weekend will be October 28/29.

- **REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP:** Our committee members will be taking part in a cultural diversity training session November 4th led by Exodus World Services. This will enable our group to work as mentors for refugee families. In addition the refugee support group will be teaming up with our peace and justice group to work on our third social mission weekend (Nov. 25/26) that will focus on urging the president to allow more refugees into the country.
- **EARTH CARE COMMITTEE:** The committee will be organizing a showing of a 15 minute video after the 8:00 and 10:00 am Masses on Oct. 8th (the weekend of the Feast of St. Francis) that reviews the key components of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, "Laudato Si" and the committee will provide information on living more environmentally sustainable live.

ACTION REQUEST BY THE COUNCIL: The Earth Care committee would like to form an exploratory sub-committee to exploring the possibility of converting a patch of the parish's east lawn into native wildflowers and grasses. Native plants provide many benefits in the way of enhanced habitat for butterflies and other pollinators and better capacity to reduce storm water runoff. It would also provide an ideal place for parishioners to pray and reconnect to the natural world. This could be one way our parish can advance the goals outline by Laudato Si'.

(Submitted by Tom Cordaro)

Pro-L.I.F.E. Committee:

40 Days for Life, a time of praying, fasting and witnessing for life, began on September 27 and continues through November 5. Area vigil sites are at Access Clinic in Downers Grove and Planned Parenthood in Aurora.

A message for Respect Life Month will appear on the electronic sign in early October.

A special poster will be displayed in the narthex.

(Submitted by Mary Ann Cronauer)

St. Vincent de Paul:

Annual Friends of the Poor Walk is Sat, Sept 29th. This fund raising event is lead nationally but run at the local level. Naperville parish conferences are joining St Elizabeth Seton for their 2 mile walk that originates at All Saints Catholic Academy, travels along the river walk and back to the school.

Requests for financial assistance have been steady though some weeks have been lighter than others recently. Income has been steady, in part due to the RSVP envelopes included in the packet that's mailed to all parishioners' homes, but we could always use more funds.

(Submitted by Mark Oliphant)

September Club:

On Wednesday afternoon September 6, 2017, 29 members gathered in the parish center for a fall catered luncheon. We opened with a prayer. September birthdays and anniversaries were recognized and all were asked to remember those who are ill in their prayers. An announcement was made about the Day of Service to be held on Saturday, November 18th. Members were asked to let us know if anyone could use some help.

The October meeting will be a memorial Mass for deceased members followed by dinner. Look for details in the bulletin.

(Submitted by Ann Patt)

Sharing Parish:

Checks totaling \$6,250 (raised by the 2016 Garage Sale) are being sent to three Catholic Grammar Schools in Aurora for partial tuition assistance in the 1st semester for nine students in seven families.

The 2018 Scholarship Fund Garage Sale has been scheduled!! The sale dates will be Friday, June 29th and Saturday, June 30th; we will start accepting donations on Saturday, June 23rd. We have learned that the Saturday of Ribfest has been set for July 7th in 2018, and we will endeavor to hold the Garage Sale on the weekend before Ribfest as a general policy in the future; for the next four years there would be no conflict of dates at SMMP with this plan.

(Submitted by Martha Rose)

Reports compiled and submitted by Carrie Tilton
