

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
March 7, 2017

Members Present: Jim Chitwood, Tom Cordaro, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Victoria Kosirog, Mary Oliphant, Carrie Tilton, Carl Van Dril, Brendan Wagner, Don Wenig, Tom Zakosek
Members Absent: Julie Lomax, Brian Pelz
Guest Presenters: Chas Bellock, Rebecca Siar

Council President Carl Van Dril called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room, with Brendan Wagner leading Council in an opening prayer. Carl then welcomed guest presenters Chas Bellock and Rebecca Siar, who would be presenting at tonight's meeting.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2017 MEETING MINUTES:

Victoria Kosirog moved to approve the minutes from February 7, 2017, with Tom Zakosek seconding, and the Council approving these. The minutes, along with Commission reports, will now be posted onto the Council's web page. Council Secretary Jim Chitwood will provide a summary of the meeting minutes for inclusion in the parish bulletin.

PRESENTATION BY SMMP ECHO APPRENTICE: Rebecca Siar made a presentation to Council about what she has accomplished at SMMP during her two years as Parish Apprentice from the Echo Catechetical Leadership Program through the University of Notre Dame. Becca is nearing the end of her two-year service learning program at our parish (ending in May 2017), as she works toward completion of her Master's degree in Theology. During these two years as an apprentice, Becca has been serving full-time at the parish. As mentored by Dan Lawler, Director of Youth Ministry, Becca has especially focused on communication and marketing.

Some of Becca's contributions to the parish include the following: updating the parish website; increasing the parish's social media presence; and improving marketing design. In addition, she has started and maintained the information website (www.youngadulthcatholic.org) about Catholic Young Adult (ages 18-39) opportunities in partnering parishes within the Naperville/Lisle/Aurora/Warrenville area. Carl Van Dril noted that Becca has also assisted with developing the skill set matrix for the parish's future Communications Coordinator position.

Becca reviewed various types of social media currently in use and shared statistics about each of these. She also explained which types of social media are more frequently used by certain age groups, noting the importance of developing communication strategies specific to various age groups. Lastly, Becca shared her suggestions for improving communication and marketing within the parish.

Carl thanked Becca for her presentation.

PRESENTATION ON PLANNED GIVING AND ESTATE PLANNING: In continuation of its discussion from last month about parish finances, Council had expressed interest in learning more about how to encourage parishioners' Planned Giving and inclusion of SMMP in their estate and financial planning. Carl invited Chas Bellock, a parishioner of St. Margaret Mary and an attorney with Bellock & Coogan, Ltd., to share information with Council tonight about this. Chas Bellock explained several ways in which parishioners could participate in Planned Giving, e.g. through gifting securities and charitable gift annuities. In addition, SMMP could also benefit from bequests and charitable remainder trusts.

Fr. Paul noted that the Diocese can help guide and assist our parish to promote and establish Planned Giving to benefit SMMP. Chas Bellock also noted that the Diocese can act as SMMP's broker. He also stressed the importance of promoting ongoing awareness and communication within the parish about including SMMP in Planned Giving and Estate Planning. Carl consented to contact the Diocese and report back to Council about this.

As Council prepares to make presentations at the Sunday Masses on 4/23/17, it was noted that Planned Giving should also be mentioned as part of Stewardship.

Carl encouraged Council to consider the establishment of a Stewardship Committee and to solicit interested parishioners to serve on this committee. Don Wenig and Chas Bellock expressed their interest in this.

Carl thanked Chas for his presentation.

Following this, Council took a break from 8:10-8:20 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Brendan Wagner. Brendan was thanked for these refreshments.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Administration: There was no report received, and no representative was in attendance.

Christian Service (CSC): [*Christian Service Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council – March 7, 2017 was electronically submitted in advance by Carrie Tilton, a copy of which is shown hereto*].

Carrie Tilton, CSC Representative, noted that Joan Allemeier will be stepping down from the leadership role in the Blood Drive ministry. The Knights of Columbus will take on this role going forward.

In response to Fr. Paul's request, the Knights have agreed to help with the expanded Baptism schedule on the first and fourth Sundays of each month as needed. They will start this in March.

Christian Worship (CWC): [*St. Margaret Mary Christian Worship Commission Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2017 and Christian Worship Commission Monthly*

Report to Parish Council – February 2017 were submitted in advance by Brian Pelz, as shown hereto].

Brian Pelz, CWC Representative, was absent tonight. In Brian's absence, Carl reported that there has been much recent communication within the Worship ministries about the upcoming revised Sunday Mass schedule (8 a.m., 10 a.m., and 12 noon), which will become effective on 6/4/17. Additional communication with the other parish ministries and parishioners about these upcoming changes will be ongoing. Council expressed their support of the Worship Commission and of their efforts in planning for these upcoming changes in the Sunday Mass schedule.

Christian Education (CEC): [CEC Ministry Reports for March 2017 were electronically submitted by Julie Lomax, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Julie Lomax, CEC Representative, was absent tonight. There were no questions posed or discussion conducted pertaining to the CEC ministries tonight.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Brendan Wagner, Youth Representative, had nothing to report.

AFTER-MASS PARISHIONER INTERVIEWS (3/11/17 and 3/12/17): Tom Cordaro reviewed the schedule and logistics for next weekend's one-on-one parishioner interviews, for which Council members will be conducting after each of the Masses. These interviews will focus on "reading the signs of the times" in order to better understand the world our parishioners inhabit. In addition, parishioners can view and submit their responses to these interview questions online, and hardcopies of these survey questions will also be available next weekend. Survey results are due by 4/27/17.

The schedule for these one-on-one interviews follows:

- 3/10/17 – (Upper Room)
 - 5:00 p.m. – C. Van Dril and D. Wenig

- 3/11/17 – (Rooms 2 and 3, along with John Schlaman's office)
 - 7:30 a.m. – C. Van Dril and V. Kosirog
 - 9:00 a.m. – C. Van Dril, V. Kosirog, and C. Tilton
 - 10:45 a.m. – C. Van Dril, C. Tilton, and B. Wagner
 - Noon – C. Van Dril and D. Wenig

PASTORAL COUNCIL RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE: Committee Co-Chair Mary Oliphant provided updates about the nominees, who were recently contacted about their possible interest in becoming an At-Large Representative on Council. Recruitment information will run in the parish bulletin for four weeks, with the response deadline on 4/10/17. Council members are also encouraged to attend the orientation session on 4/19/17 and lend their support to the candidates.

“HATE HAS NO HOME HERE” YARD SIGNS: Tom Cordaro provided some background on how these yard signs were developed and utilized within the Naperville Interfaith Community. They were funded and printed through a GoFundMe campaign, started by Miriam Qunell of Congregation Beth Shalom. Tom Cordaro will provide information shortly about how to order and purchase additional yard signs through their next reprinting.

Council expressed their support of these signs being posted at SMMP’s main entrance doors, declaring that SMMP is a safe and special place, with respect shown within where “all are welcome.” Information about these yard signs will appear in the parish bulletin and will be included in the before-Mass announcements on Sunday.

Subsequent to the Council meeting, additional information came to light regarding the potential impact of this effort. It was decided to pause the posting of the signs for more discussion at the April Council meeting.

COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS AT MASSES (4/23/17): Fr. Paul and Carl Van Dril are collaborating on the script, which will be used for Council’s presentations at the Sunday Masses on 4/23/17. These presentations will be different from those in 2015 and will incorporate an awareness of what’s needed within the parish, also connecting to the Parish Theme and Calling. The need to be good stewards with our decreasing resources and decreasing parish size will also be stressed.

Carl will be checking on how the change from ParishPay to the WeShare automated online giving might affect parishioners who are already signed up for the former. He will report back to Council about this.

Council members are asked to greet parishioners before and after each of the Sunday Masses on 4/23/17 and should wear their nametags.

Council will continue its discussion next month on the above.

TWO-YEAR PLAN FOR PARISH THEME & CALLING: Council members are reminded to check their assignments and proposed completion dates for the projects, programs, and ideas developed for the Two-Year Plan for Parish Theme & Calling. Tom Cordaro recently sent out this updated list as a “gentle reminder.” He requested that Staff Leadership contact him with any problems incurred with project start and implementation.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS: Carl requested continued input about future agenda topics. Reports on how the Two-Year Parish Theme & Calling projects are progressing will be included.

OPEN ITEMS DISCUSSION: Tom Zakosek reported that the Men’s Club is preparing for its annual “April in Parish” Service Project and is requesting the name submission of a family, couple, or individual within the Parish needing clean-up or fix-up help with their

home. This activity is scheduled for the first three Saturdays in April, and projects are typically sized to be accomplished by a team of men in one full day.

Plans for the parish's new electronic sign have been submitted to the Naperville Planning Commission, with installation anticipated soon..

The need for a gender neutral bathroom no longer appears to be an issue for a PADS guest. The designated "Family" bathroom can easily serve this purpose.

[It was later noted that the "Family" bathroom is located upstairs in the Narthex. It can serve as a gender neutral bathroom during the weekend liturgies but cannot serve the needs of our PADS guests on Thursday nights through early Friday mornings].

Fr. Paul noted that the "Family" bathroom appears to be in need of remodeling. He indicated that this might be a good future service project for the Men's Club.

Carrie Tilton requested periodic review of any "orphaned" ministries, which have either lost their leadership or which do not fit into a specific Commission, e.g. the Military Ministry.

"WHAT ARE WE HEARING FROM PARISHIONERS?" – DISCUSSION:

One visitor noted that an "Events" board – and not just the Military Ministry board – would be very helpful within the main entryway to the church.

One parishioner has left the parish due to Parish Social Mission response about the refugee crisis issue.

Don Wenig posed the question about why there was no information provided at SMMP about the Catholic Bishops' request that parishioners contact their state representatives to urge a "no" vote on House Bill 40. ["HB 40 allows taxpayer money to be used to pay for elective abortions for Medicaid recipients and state employees. It also allows tax money to go to grants to organizations that refer, counsel for, or perform abortions."]

FINAL "WHIP" AROUND: Comments included:

- "Excellent meeting."
- "Great meeting."
- "Good meeting."
- "Good meeting."
- "Lots of stuff covered tonight."
- "Appreciated the presentations."
- "Thanks, Becca, for your presentation."
- "Thanks for staying."
- "Thanks."

- “Good work.”

CLOSING: Brendan Wagner led Council in a group closing prayer. Following this, the meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, in the Upper Room, starting at 7:00 p.m.

*April Opening/Closing Prayer: Brian Pelz
April Refreshments: Brian Pelz*

Respectfully submitted,
Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary

**Christian Service Commission
Monthly Report to Parish Council
March 7, 2017**

Bereavement:

We did not have a meeting in Feb. and will be having our meeting in March 15th so we have nothing to report at this time.
(Submitted by Patti McGehee)

Blood Drive:

Joan Allemeier will be stepping down from the leadership role in the Blood Drive ministry. The Knights of Columbus will take on this role going forward. We sincerely thank Joan for her time and leadership in this important ministry and the Knights of Columbus for seamlessly taking on this new responsibility.
(Submitted by Carrie Tilton)

Ken Peluso, our Community Program Director, reported as of our council meeting on January 26th that the Spring Blood Drive will take place on Saturday, April 8th from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM. He is placing bulletin announcements about the drive which will also include the fact that the Knights will be signing up donors before and after each Mass the weekend of April 1st & 2nd.
(Submitted by Michael Maziarek and Dan Patt on behalf of the Knights of Columbus)

Boy Scouts (Troop 507): No report
(Ramona Vaikutis)

Charitable Contributions:

Nothing to submit.
(Submitted by Joe Straka)

Christmas Giving Tree:

(Tom Cordaro)

Comfort Care Ministry (Funeral Luncheons, Emergency Meals):

I did have one Funeral Luncheon last month to serve about 60 people at a cost of \$126.

(Submitted by Kathy Kalina)

Cub Scouts (Pack 507):

Cub Master - Tim Tilton

Committee Chairman - Brian Burgner

February: Blue & Gold dinner: Webelo 2 scouts graduate from the Cub Scout Pack. 18 scouts plan to move on to Boy Scout troops (the majority, to SMMP's Troop 507).

March: Bowling party at Lisle Lanes on Saturday, March 4th

(Submitted by Tim Tilton)

Daybreak Transitional Housing:

Refurbished our apartment with help from the landlord cleaning the rugs, a new vent hood in the kitchen, and other repairs. Then our team of volunteers Mary Ann and Don Cronnauer, Joe Egan, Bob Stricker, Ingrid Van Dril and Daybreak committee members Marion Stricker, Rick Micek and Pat McAuliffe cleaned, washed, painted and collected and assembled furniture-wonderful team.

Then a parishioner donated a much needed car-we are truly blessed. Thanks to Carl Van Dril and Marion Stricker for their hard work. And John Stricker, college student extraordinaire at electronics and assembly.

(Submitted by Pat McAuliffe)

Knights of Columbus:

Activities for February 2017

- Knights helped with clean-up and dirty laundry delivery at PADS on February 17th.
- K of C Bishop Blanchette Assembly Exemplification 4th Degree ceremony & dinner at Lisle Sheraton on February 18th.
- K of C Council Business Meeting on February 23rd.
- SMMP Council 16011 Knights of Columbus donated \$1500 remaining from last year's Tootsie Roll of ID Drive funds split among Special Olympics Area 2, All Saints Academy Special Education, Autism Society of Illinois, MarianJoy Foundation, Gigi's Playhouse and Illinois Benedictine Sunday Recreation Charities.
- In response to Fr. Paul's request, the Knights have agreed to help with the expanded Baptism schedule on the 1st and 4th Sundays of each month as needed with our involvement starting in March.

(Submitted by Dan Patt)

Men's Club:

Our meeting this month was our annual Ladies night. We had 50 ladies present, and 62 members. We also had 2 new members. Michael Brophy, the President of Benedictine University was our guest speaker.

On February 17th we held our Bingo, with 120 in attendance. A good time was had by all. We want to thank everyone for their support.

On February 24th we held a card night with 32 in attendance. Everyone had a good time.

(Submitted by Gus Fischer)

Nursery:

No report.

(Submitted by Cailin Ramirez)

Pastoral Care:

No report.

(Submitted by Deacon Fred Straub)

Peace & Justice Advisory Working Group:

Because of the bishop's diocesan annual appeal we had to cancel our last parish social mission. The group will begin work identifying possible parish social mission weekends for the 2017-18 year.

Refugee Support Group:

The group organized a postcard signing campaign urging President Trump to rescind his executive order on refugees. This group is also planning an April 5th Muslim-Catholic program that will focus on the similarities and differences between Catholic Lenten Practices and Muslim Ramadan Practices. In addition the group will be inviting staff members from Church World Services to conduct a training session for members of our parish who would like to participate in a refugee mentoring program. Finally the group will be posting prayers for refugees in the bulletin and making short refugee educational videos available to parishioners.

Earth Care Sub-Committee: No report.

(Submitted by Tom Cordaro)

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

No scheduled activities are planned at this time.

(Submitted by Mary Ann Cronauer)

St. Vincent de Paul: No report.

(Chuck Hinds)

September Club:

On Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 31 members enjoyed a delicious lunch at the House of Emperor. We opened with a prayer. Members were asked to remember those members who are ill in their prayers. January & February birthdays and anniversaries were recognized. In March we will meet at Quincy's. Details will be in the upcoming bulletin.

(Submitted by Ann Patt)

Sharing Parish:

The Scholarship Fund Mega Garage Sale is scheduled for Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24. Donations will be accepted from Saturday, June 17 through Wednesday, June 21. Everyone is invited to volunteer during Garage Sale working hours, starting on Monday, June 19th, for as long or short a time as one wishes:

M-Th, 11am to 8 pm; Friday, 8 am to 8 pm; Sat, 8 am to 4 pm, (including clean-up, starting at 1 pm). It takes many hands!

(Submitted by Martha Rose)

- Submitted by Carrie Tilton

**St. Margaret Mary Christian Worship Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.**

St. Margaret Mary Christian Worship Commission Meeting

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Room 11

Meeting called by: Bran Pelz Led by: Gus Fisher

Attendees:

Ministry	Name	Attended
Altar Servers	Deacon Ken Miles	Y
Art & Environment	Courtney Murtaugh	N
Baptism Assistants	Tom Zakosek	Y
Bread Bakers	Brigid Harren	N
CWC Representative on PC	Brian Pelz	N
Eucharistic Ministers	Felicia Egan	Y
Family Altar Servers	Mary Oliphant	N
Greeters	Gus Fischer	Y
Greeters	Mark Marsaglia	Y
Lectors	Terry Wagner	Y
Linen Launderers	Loretta Mercadante	N
Liturgy Coordinator	Deacon Ken Miles	Y
Liturgy Development	Mary Oliphant	N
Music Ministry	John Schlaman	Y

Duration	Topic	Lead
2	Opening Prayer	Gus
8	2016 Advent/Christmas Assessment	All
35	Lent, Holy Week & Easter	Ken
15	Revised Sunday Mass Schedule 8:00, 10:00, 12:00 June 2017 *	Gus
10	2017-2018 Budget 10% Reduction	Gus
2	Provide Mass & Service Schedule for the year for CWC	Ken
8	Ministry Reports & Updates **	All
7	New Business	All
2	CWC By-Laws Review & Approval	Gus
1	Closing Prayer	Gus
90		

1. Agenda Discussion

1. 2016 Advent & Christmas Assessment
 - Went well, No issues.
2. Lent, Holy Week and Easter Planning
 - Ken: Planning for Ash Wednesday, Mass at 8:15am and 7:30pm. Services at 12:10pm and 4:00pm. Number of Lectors and EMs required. Courtney will set up.
 - Fridays during Lent we will have Exposition and Adoration from 5 to 7:20 P.M. followed by the Stations of the Cross
 - Healing Mass will be on 3/17 at 7:30pm.
 - Sundays of Lent- On 3rd, 4th, 5th, Sundays 2 Readers for Gospel
 - Passion/ Palm Sunday: Everything as in the past.
 - Holy Thursday - Service at 7:30pm
 - Good Friday: 3pm Lord's Passion - Father Pat
7:30pm Evening Cross Adoration -final plans in flux
 - Easter Vigil: Will start at 8pm.
 - Easter Sunday: at both the 9am and 10:45am we will have Mass both in Church & Parish Center.. Barb recommended that everything for the Parish Center Masses be set up early.
 - Deacon Fred's last Mass as Deacon will be the 12:30 on Easter Sunday
3. Revised Sunday Mass Schedule
 - On June 4th, we will begin our new schedule of Masses: 8:00am, 10:00am, and 12:00pm.
 - Communication to the parish
 - Sunday Nursery

- Sunday nursery - babysitting is currently available at 9am and 10:45am masses. Service commission would need to decide which masses would still offer this. We currently have 2 full-time, salaried care givers. If we change the schedule, we (CSC) would have to discuss with them to figure out if they are still willing/able to babysit.
 - RE – How will RE be effected?
 - Liturgy of the Word
 - LOW (liturgy of the word for kids, at 5pm, 9am and 10:45am masses). Education commission would just need to decide which masses would offer it.
4. 2017-2018 Budget 10% Reduction
- Informed members of the proposed 10% cut in budgets. Identify issues or concerns.
5. New Business
- Tom Zakosek brought up that we will be having Baptisms on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays. The KCs will be trained to assist at the 1st and 4th Sundays.
 - Discussed various ways to improve the EMs signing up for the various Masses. This has been a challenge since the new scheduling procedure was implemented.
 - EM training will be held on March 4th.
 - Altar Server Training will be held March 18th.
 - The use of the chapel for Sensory Sensitive children is on hold until further discussion.
 - We discussed the storing the bulletins until after mass. Will discuss with the greeters. Probably start this in the near future
6. CWC By-Laws Review & Approval
- Barb has volunteered to type up the changes we have made to our By-Laws, and send them to all members. Approval of these changes will be completed by e-mail or at our next meeting. If needed, we could look at revising them in another year.

Minutes submitted by Gus Fischer and Brian Pelz

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

Open Items:

- CWC By-Laws amendments revisions continued discussion. A vote on the amendments is pending.
- Review and improve process with establishing Gift Bearers

CWC Chair:

- February CWC Meeting was held. Minutes included as a separate document.

Youth Altar Servers:

- Nothing to report

Family Altar Servers:

- Nothing to report

Art & Environment:

- Back pew by St. Margaret Mary shrine has been removed and kneeler place back a bit to open up the shrine area.
- Pews that were removed are being repurposed into a table/stand for cremated remain urns, flowers and photo of the deceased.

Bread Bakers:

- Nothing to report

Eucharistic Ministers:

- Nothing to report

Greeters:

- Planning for Holy Week
- Preparing for the reduced Sunday mass schedule

Lectors:

- One more new teen joined the Lectors. Noelle Veome, a freshman at NCHS.
- Working closely with the Liturgy Development team on meeting all the special requests they have of the lector group during Lent, Holy Week & Easter.
- Will be asking the lectors for their new mass preferences given the new mass schedule coming up in June.

Linen Launderers:

- Nothing to report

Liturgy Development:

- Nothing to report.

Music:

- Nothing to report

Sacristans:

- Nothing to report.

Gift Bearers:

- Signup to be gift bearers continues to be a challenge. We will remind parishioners of this option in an upcoming bulletin.

Submitted by Brian Pelz



CEC Ministry Reports

For March 2017

Adult Education: Sr. Madelyn Gould

BIBLE STUDY – The second semester study concludes next Tuesday.

BUSINESS BREAKFASTS – 25 attended the presentation by Mike Hobbs on “You’re Too Busy in a Too Busy World.” Peggy Leyden will give the March 18th reflection on “Courageous Conversations.”

EVENING ENRICHMENT- Terry Nelson-Johnson was our Feb. 16th speaker on “Keeping our Hearts on Fire.” Thirty were in attendance.

MORNING ENRICHMENT – 25 attended the February session on “Jesus, Can We Talk?” Many different prayer forms were presented in this interactive session.

On March 8th, Sr. Mary Carroll will dramatize Sr. Theresa of Avila and Sr.

Therese of Lisieux. She will highlight their messages on prayer and feminine leadership.

Fr. Paul will be our April 5th speaker. Topic: Holy Week: Walking Jesus’ Journey in My Shoes.”

RETREATS – 45 attended the all-day workshop on the Enneagram. There have been three follow-up sessions with 25-30 attending each session.

Al Gustafson will give a presentation on the Paschal Mystery on March 20th. While this is primarily for those who have attended the “Adventures in Contemplation” sessions, others are welcome. Time for contemplative prayer will be part of the March 20th evening.

Twenty-six women attended the weekend retreat (Feb. 10-12). Sixteen men are registered for the Men’s Retreat (Mar. 10-12) in Mundelein, IL

Eighteen women attended the CRHP retreat Feb. 28-29. Thirteen are continuing with the formation process.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: I am presently seeing 12 directees.

RCIA - The 7 Inquirers participated in the Rite of Sending at SMM on March 5th. In the afternoon they joined other RCIA groups at St. Raymond Cathedral for the Rite of Election. A new group of Inquirers is starting April 19th.

PreK–Grade 5: Sue Davey

The final Parent Sacrament Retreat was Sunday, February 5th. About eighty people attended.

Fifty children participated in the First Communion retreat on Saturday, March 4th. Fifteen adults assisted. The First Communion Bread services will be Tuesday, March 7 and Wednesday March 8th. Father Paul will be visiting the 2nd grade classes the week of March 11 to March 15. The final blessings rite (with baptismal candle) will be the weekend masses of March 11 and 12.

The Catechist Open House for Lenten materials was February 11 to February 15. The March 1st Ash Wednesday service was well attended. We had ten people distributing ashes.

On February 25th, the 1st to 5th graders hosted the 5:00 Mass. Debbie Linton again coordinated the Mass. Approximately twenty children participated.

Youth Ministry: Dan Lawler

Our Christian Education Committee met last month to discuss the results of our survey. The two main take-a-ways were the decision to increase the tuition as we have done every other year. We have also agreed to change our afternoon class times a little later to meet the needs of our families.

We invited our high school youth to Main Event for a day of fun and fellowship. We had 25 youth join us for bowling, laser tag and other games.

The Sophomore Confirmation Retreat was at the end of February after three months of preparing with our Peer Ministers. They did an incredible job of sharing their faith and guiding the participants through witness talks, activities, small group conversations, and prayer. Overall, the retreat was very meaningful and fulfilling for youth and adults. We continue to struggle with people missing part or all of the retreat because of other priorities.

The Diocesan retreat team led a Junior High Retreat last Friday for 23 6-8th graders. The focus was on leadership and discipleship and included icebreakers, talks and small groups facilitated by young adults.

Our second annual Shamrock Shindig fundraiser is Friday March 10th featuring the Whiskey Brother Irish band, homemade Irish food and drinks. This event is geared towards young adults but open to the wider community. We are hoping to at least double our numbers from last year.

We are beginning the final phase of preparing the sophomores for Confirmation with interviews. Confirmandi must engage in a theological reflection on their service, share how they have been prepared and their readiness in a letter to Fr. Paul, and have completed all of their catechesis prior to their interviews. These half hour conversations will explore their practices over the last two years and clarify their desire for the sacrament. Confirmation will be Friday, May 12th at 7 pm with Bishop Siegel presiding.

All Saints Catholic Academy: Anne Marie-Cronin

Giving Back Through Service One of the things that makes All Saints Catholic Academy unique is that the Mission Statement includes the goal of an education balanced in “message, worship, community, and **service**.” This is especially relevant as we enter the Lenten season.

The students have been encouraged to be more involved in their community outreach efforts this year. This past fall, each grade level voted to support a specific philanthropic organization. Below is a snapshot of the organizations the students are supporting.

Kindergarten: Putting together Easter baskets for needy children.

First Grade: Making fleece toys and blankets for the Humane Society.

Second Grade: Through Special Spaces, an organization dedicated to creating dream bedrooms for children with life-threatening illness, the students will collect money to pay for a room makeover for a child in the Naperville area.

Third Grade: Raise money for the Lustgarten Foundation for pancreatic cancer research. The students are developing a campaign called "Spring into Hope: Help Us Lick Cancer" and will sell lollipops at the end of April.

Fourth Grade: Packing food at Feed My Starving Children.

Fifth Grade: Collecting supplies that will be donated to Gigi's Playhouse, an organization that embraces and empowers families and children with Down's Syndrome. The Fifth graders and their families will volunteer at Gigi's Playhouse as well.

Jr. High Students: Various fundraising activities to support the 100+ children of the Hogar del Pobre orphanage. Monies collected will help to buy a refrigerator.

All-School Mass

All are invited to attend the weekly school mass at All Saints each Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. Parents pray the rosary in the school gym at 7:50. Please join us!

- Submitted by Julie Lomax
