

Parish Council Meeting Outreach Report July 9, 2024

AD - Cursillo - Joy Bandy

- *Ultreyas are held the first Saturday of the month after 8:00 AM Mass.
- *The Men's and Women's Weekends will be held at the end of September at Mariawald Retreat House (Berks County). Men's Sept. 19th/22nd Women's Sept. 26th/29th

Bereavement – Mary Ann Razzano

- *A "Grief Support Group" of six sessions was April 15th-May 20th.
- *Planning another Grief Support Session for September 23rd to October 28th culminating with All Soul's Day Mass.
- *There are at least six members have assisted at the Funerals, meeting with families, planning the readings, etc. and present at each funeral.
- *The Knights have been lending assistance when needed at the funerals including Adult Altar Servers.

Book Club – Anita Harrison

- *Currently reading Susan Meissner's "A Fall of Marigolds".
- *At the May Meeting, Lee Bukowski, a local author, came and led a good discussion on her novel "A Week of Warm Weather".
- *Parish Library is organized and open for borrowing thanks to Renee Milligan.
- *Book Club is a social non-denominational group that is open to all.
- *Members continue to support other church committees with book sales, raffle baskets, volunteering and prayer.

Caregiving Support – Mary Newhams

- *Meet the first Saturdays of the month, recite the rosary, pray Morning Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours), Pray for our parish family, and responds to messages sent from Eastern Atlantic and National Leaders.
- *Read, study, prepare for Sunday and the coming month.
- *Profess vows yearly. The group renewed vows on the Saturday before Divine Mercy Sunday.

Catholics Divorce Ministry – Joseph Boylan

- *Open to St. John's Parish & St. Benedict's.
- *12 week session with DVDs and discussions facilitated by Joe Boylan (St. Benedict's).
- *There was no Spring/Summer Session.

Disabled Advocate Committee – Brooke Frech

- *Working to improving conditions for the disabled.
- *Several parishioners are experimenting with hearing devices during mass.
- *Looking forward to "push pads" on the front doors of the church.
- *Looking forward to concrete modification on the right side of the church for handicap access.

Family Life – Gene Raser

- *Hosted Hospitality Sunday July 7th.
- *Planning Children Activities for Saint Benedict's Feast Day Picnic on Sunday July 14th.

Friendly Visitors – Dennis Brizick

- *The group is currently conducting phone visits. There are currently no in-person visits from the group.
- *Eucharistic Ministers are currently visiting parishioners to administer Holy Communion.

Gardens/Stewards of Creation – Tony Diederich

- *The Gardens are thriving despite the dry, hot weather. Volunteers are weeding, watering etc.
- *Some one will take over Msgr. Ed's large mower cutting. Ron McClure will do the Trimming. Tony will continue to cut the grass with the hand mower around the church proper.
- *Vegetable garden has been removed for this season. Perhaps next year it will be at another area.
- *Recycling paper and magazines on a more routine pick-up.
- *More volunteer gardeners are needed.

Knights of Columbus – Ron McClure (Rich Conte)

- *The Designer Bag Bingo on April 21st was postponed until February 1st, 2025.
- *The Golf Outing Friday May 17th was a big success.
- *Helped with the set-up and food for the Parish Celebration for the Ordination of Aaron Scheidel on June 1st after the 6:00 Mass.
- *Hosted Hospitality Sunday on June 9th.
- *Helped with the Farewell Celebration for Monsignor Domin on Friday, June 14th.
- *The Pancake Breakfast is on hold for now.
- *Helped in planning for the Saint Benedict's Feast Day Picnic/Welcome for Father Stan, our new Pastor on Sunday, July 14th. Offering manual labor in setting up etc. and cooking hamburgers and hot dogs to be served with the Pot Luck Luncheon.
- *July 20th is the Installation of new Officers at the 5:00 Mass with a dinner social to follow.
- *Mike Maiers is the new Grand Knight and Gary Raser is the Deputy Grand Knight.
- *Planning to help coordinate the Deacon Mark Brezina Parish Celebration on September 15th in the Family Life Center.
- *Planning a Fall Fundraiser for September 29th. Details will be in the Bulletin.
- *September 28th-29th is 5th Sunday Rosary.
- *Assisting in Saint Francis of Assisi Feast Day – Blessing of Animals around Noon in the Parking Lot on October 6th.
- *Spirit Weekend is planned for October 12th-13th.
- *Christmas Bazaar planned for November 2nd-3rd. Set-up on November 1st.
- *White Rose given to Parents at Baptism.
- *Provides assistance to any Parish function, when needed.

Landings – Kelly Leininger

- *There are no sessions planned at this time.
- *Open to help anyone who wants to come back into the Catholic Faith.
- *It was suggested that maybe in addition to the bulletin, invitational messages could be put on the Parish Website and Facebook besides word of mouth.

Prime Timers – Charlie Jones

- *The K.I.T. Program (Keeping in Touch) to reach out to members who are sick, homebound or in a nursing/hospital environment continues to be well received.
- *The Bereavement Committee reviewed their functions with the group at the May Meeting.
- *Provided drinks for Father Scheidel's Ordination Parish Celebration, Monsignor Domin's Farewell Celebration.
- *The annual Prime Timers Picnic was held on June 25th. The weather was great and good time had by all. We were honored to have Fr. Tom and our new Pastor, Father Stan, attend the Picnic.
- *Mark Schrum volunteered to chair future trips for the Prime Timers.
- *The Prime Timers presented gifts of \$200.00 each to Fr. Scheidel and Monsignor Domin.
- *Providing drinks for the Feast of Saint Benedict's Pot Luck Picnic and Welcome for Father Stan on Sunday July 14th.
- *Chris Ivey, a local juggler, will entertain at the July Meeting.
- *New members are always welcome. This is a non-denominational Club.

Property Committee - John Bergandino

- *Repairs are being made on the Parish Campus, as needed.
- *Picnic Grove Committee consists – John Bergandino, Ron McClure, Tony Diederich and Gary Raser with the help of other volunteers from the Knights.

Respect Life - Mary Newhams

- *Baby Bottle Fundraiser started on Father's Day weekend in June 16th-17th. It will continue through the summer months.
- *Respect Life Team will continue the billboard ministry (The Adoption Alternative to Abortion – Real Alternatives).
- *Planning a Comfort Station (mothers, fathers, babies, children, and the elderly) at the annual Chicken BBQ in August.

Safety Committee – Rich Conte

- ***Reminder:** Evening Meetings- lights in church and hallway need to manually be turned off (lights in the new hallway section go out automatically). Gathering Space lights (3 sets) need to be turned off. Doors need to be locked overnight. Church FRONT DOOR right side have levers locked, otherwise bolt lock won't work. Thermostats (heat) for the winter need to be set at 58 F for overnight.
- *Front Door Replacement is on hold.
- *All group leaders need to have key codes to enter the building.
- *Planning to do a periodic review of Emergency Operating Plan.

St. Vincent de Paul – Andy Terifay

- *Continues to support the needs of the poor whether by food, paying bills etc.
- *There are at least 50 members in SVDP with 29 active members.
- *Will continue to accept food items all year round.
- *June 15th - 16th served at the Kennedy House Soup Kitchen.
- *St. Benedict's SVDP is a big hub to help the people of Berks County.
- *Every 3 years, we can be eligible for a grant for SVDP to help the Berks County community.
- *Seeking corporate donors to help SVDP continue to serve the Berks County community.

Stewardship - John Bergandino

- *There is a booklet section in the Gathering Space. Many topics concerning the Church and world. All materials are "Free Suggested Donations".
- *Three members personally call each new member/family to welcome them to our parish.
- *Spirit Weekend is scheduled for October 12th-13th.
- *Planning to have a New Parishioners Meeting.

Vocations - Mia Miller

- *Aaron Scheidel was ordained a Priest in the Allentown Diocese on June 1st.
- *There was a parish celebration for Aaron after the 6:00 Mass on June 1st in the FLC.
- *Seven Sisters presented special gifts to Father Scheidel at the Celebration.
- *Mark Brezina will be ordained a Deacon September 14th.
- *Messages of support and encouragement are sent at least once a month.
- *There will be Quo Vadis & Fiat Diocesan Vocation Retreats this summer July 7th-11th at Muhlenberg College in Allentown.

Women's Club – Rosanne Weidner

- *Bibles were presented to the First Holy Communicants in May.
A Cookie and Punch Reception was offered after the First Communion Mass.
- *Monetary gifts was presented to any parish active high school graduates.
- *Funded Vacation Bible School June 23rd-27th.
- *Presented \$200.00 to Aaron Scheidel towards priest vestments.
- *Presented and served food for the Father Scheidel Ordination Celebration in FLC on June 1st.

- *Presented and served food for Monsignor Domin's Farewell Celebration June 14th.
- *Providing paper products and serving the food for the Pot Luck Saint Benedict's Feast Day Celebration and Welcome for Father Stan on Sunday July 14th.
- *Making pierogis for BBQ on July 17th.
- *Planning a Book Sale for September.
- *Presented catholic educational scholarships for 2 recipients in Africa.
- *Offers a Funeral Luncheon for any parishioner who has a death in the Parish.

Youth Group- Marci Zambito (St. Catharine's)

- *There are several members of this group who have been sharing activities with Saint Catharine's and St. Ignatius.
- *Meetings are every other Sunday but not during the summer (June, July and August).
- *Trip to Steubenville Main Campus 3 is July 12th -14th. Three students from St. Benedict's Parish are registered. There will be 37 students in all.
- *Quo Vadis and Fiat Diocesan Vocation Retreats are scheduled for July 7th-11th at Muhlenberg College in Allentown.

CYO - Denise and Jason Leininger

- *CYO volunteered to plant a vegetable garden this year on our St. Benedict's campus.
- *A \$500.00 Sportsmanship Scholarship was awarded to one 8th Grade Boy and one 8th Grade Girl to Berks Catholic for High School next year.
- *Religion Awards were presented in 3rd Grade thru 8th Grade for students at LaSalle Academy, St. John's and St. Benedict's PREP Program.
- *There is a CYO Berks County Basketball Summer League again this year.

Organizations for the annual Saint Benedict's Feast Day Pot Luck Parish Picnic and Welcome for Father Stan which will be held after the 11:00 Mass on Sunday July 14th at the Picnic Grove or FLC depending on the weather. Both places are reserved. (Rich Conte)

- Set-up - Women's Club and Knights
- Choir will sing at 11:00 Mass
- Food – Pot Luck from the Parishioners who attend
- Food – Knights will offer Hamburgers and Hot Dogs
- Desserts – Women's Club
- Drinks- Prime Timers
- Clean-up – Knights and anyone who is present to help.

Hosting Hospitality Sundays

- August 11th – Music Ministry
- September 1st – OCIA (formally RCIA)
- October 6th – Gardeners
- November 10th – SVDP
- December 1st – Respect Life

Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Albright
Outreach Coordinator

