

## **St. Benedict's Presidents Meeting Minutes September 5, 2024**

**\*Opening Prayer:** Ellie Albright

**\*Mission Statement:** Read by all present.

**\*Reports and Scheduling for the next 6 months:**

### **AD - Cursillo - Joy Bandy**

- \*Ultreya's are held the first Saturday of the month after 8:00 AM Mass either at St. Benedict's or at St. Catharine's.
- \*At the Cursillo Weekends, we have 1 man and 3 women attending from St. Benedict's. We have 1 team member from St. Benedict's.
- \*The Men's and Women's Weekends will be held at the end of September at Mariawald Retreat House (Berks County). Men's Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> Women's Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>

### **Bereavement – Mary Ann Razzano**

- \*A "Grief Support Group" of six sessions is planned for September 23<sup>rd</sup> – October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- \*The Memorial Mass is scheduled for Saturday All Soul's Day at 9:00 AM followed by a small reception.
- \*There are at least six members who 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**

- \*A new master schedule for the year was established.
- \*Currently reading "Crow Mary" by Kathleen Grissom.
- \*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 Alice Newhams**

- \*Currently researching resources which can provide information to any caregiver in the parish.
- \*Looking to reorganize to help provide services to caregivers in our SB community.

### **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).

### **Disabled Advocate Committee – Brooke Frech**

- \*Constantly working on 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**

- \*Planning a Trunk or Treat for Halloween.

### **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 will soon be put to sleep.
- \*There are at least 10 volunteers manning the gardens.
- \*November 9<sup>th</sup> is Fall Clean-up.
- \*There is a need for pruning of some shrubs on our campus.
- \*Recycling paper and magazines.

### **Knights of Columbus – Mike Maiers (Rich Conte)**

- \*Planned Parish Celebrations for the Saint Benedict's Feast Day Picnic and Welcome to Father Stan.
- \*Planning a Luncheon for Deacon Brezina on Sunday Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> after 11:00 Mass.
- \*Will assist at the Saint Francis of Assisi Feast Day Blessing of the Animals on October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- \*Helping with set-up etc. for Spirit Weekend October 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.
- \*Christmas Bazaar planned for November 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. Set-up on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- \*Planning a Fall Fundraiser for November 10<sup>th</sup> – Eagles tailgate & game. Kids event too.
- \*December 7<sup>th</sup> Light Up For Christ at the Manger Scene and Complimentary Spaghetti Dinner.
- \*December 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Advent Fish Fry Fundraiser for Pro Life Activities.
- \*December 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> Feast of the Holy Family – Consecration of Families to the Holy Family.
- \*White Rose given to Parents at Baptism.
- \*Provides assistance to any Parish function, when needed.

### **Landings – Kelly Leininger**

- \*A Fall Session is planned starting October 6<sup>th</sup> for 7 weeks. Currently 1 person is registered.
- \*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.

### **Lay Ministers of Charity – Mary Alice 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 renews vows on the Saturday before Divine Mercy Sunday.

### **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.
- \*Mark Schrum volunteered to chair future trips for Prime Timers. A train trip is planned for October 18<sup>th</sup> to Jim Thorpe for a Fall Festival.
- \*Chris Ivey and his son are local jugglers who performed at the July Meeting.
- \*Annual Prime Timers Auction was held at the August Meeting.
- \*Annual Prime Timers Christmas Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn in Morgantown.
- \*A men's breakfast is held every second Monday of the month at 8:00 AM at the Breakfast Hut in Exeter Township. All are welcome.
- \*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.
- \*Various lights have been repaired on our campus.
- \*Some areas in the Rectory are being repaired.
- \*Maintenance was completed on the septic system.
- \*Updated the Fire System in the Family Life Kitchen.
- \*Future Planning to update the roof on the Church.

### **Respect Life - Mary Alice Newhams**

- \*Ending the Baby Bottle fundraiser which started Father's Day Weekend.
- \*Respect Life Team will continue the billboard ministry (The Adoption Alternative to Abortion – Real Alternatives).
- \*Offered a Comfort Station (mothers, fathers, babies, children, and the elderly) at the annual Chicken BBQ in August.
- \*Life Chain in October.
- \*There will be an Angel Tree in the Gathering Space for Advent. Items will be donated to Mary Shelter and Lifeline of Berks County.
- \*Sign-ups for Life Ad will be in December and January,
- \*Life Ad is in January.

### **Safety Committee – Rich Conte**

- \***Reminder: Evening Meetings**
  - All manual lights out (FLC Main Hall, Church and Gathering Space Hallway)
  - Lights in FLC Hallway go out automatically.
  - Doors need to be **SHUT** and locked overnight. Church FRONT DOOR right side needs to have the levers engaged or it won't lock properly.
  - Please make sure to closed any doors that are propped open so they can be locked.
  - Thermostats in the Hall (heat) for the winter is set 60 F overnight and air 85 F for summer.
- \*Front Door Replacement is pending a new estimate and state funding.
- \*Keys will be replaced-group leaders will have the code for key boxes to enter the building pending state funding.
- \*Surveillance camera and right side exit ramp pending state funding approval.
- \*Periodic review of Emergency Operating Plan. When completed, plan to have briefings with Father Stan and Pastoral Council.
- \*Safety Committee planning to update open items list (Narcon Kits at First Aid Stations).
- \*Next meeting planned for October after word on approval of state funds.

### **St. Vincent de Paul – Andy Terifay**

- \*Continues to support the needs of the poor whether by food, paying bills etc.
- \*Planning to start collecting food items for Thanksgiving Baskets in October. There are at least 60 families who will receive baskets. All paper bags will be put out at the St. Joseph's Table in the Gathering Space.
- \*Please sign-up to help when scheduled for Kennedy Soup Kitchen. Check bulletin for details.
- \*Food Items are always accepted throughout the year.

### **Stewardship - John Bergandino**

- \*Stewardship (Spirit) Weekend is scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. Directives will be sent to Group Leaders.
- \*There is a booklet section in the Gathering Space. Many topics concerning the Church and world. All materials are "Free Suggested Donations".
- \*Planning to have a New Parishioners Meeting.

### **Vocations - Mia Miller**

- \*Mark Brezina will be ordained a Deacon September 14<sup>th</sup> 2024.
- \*Deacon Brezina will celebrate his Ordination with St. Benedict's at the 11:00 Mass on Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup> followed by a Parish Luncheon in the FLC.
- \*National Vocation Awareness Week is in November.
- \*Adopt a Priest Weekend is scheduled for December.
- \*Messages of support and encouragement are sent at least once a month.

**Women's Club – Rosanne Weidner**

- \*Set-up, presented, and served food for Saint Benedict's Feast Day Pot Luck Picnic and Welcome to Father Stan.
- \*Funded Vacation Bible School.
- \*Made pierogies for the BBQ in August.
- \*Planning to set-up, present, serve food, and provide desserts for Deacon Mark Brezina's Luncheon on September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- \*Planning the Annual Book Sale September 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> in the FLC.
- \*Planning light refreshments for after the 5:00 Mass on October 5<sup>th</sup> for The Installation of Father Stan as our Pastor.
- \*Planning a Fudge Sale for the Bazaar Nov.2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>.
- \*Planning Raffle Baskets for the Bazaar Nov.2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. Funds Vacation Bible School.
- \*Planning a Cookie Sale in December.
- \*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.
- \*Trip to Steubenville was July 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> . 34 Youth (6 from St. Benedict's) and 7 Chaperones (2 from St. Benedict's) attended.
- \*Group will be meeting every Sunday either at St. Catharine's or St. Ignatius.
- \*Once a month there will be a Mass at HGA for iWorship offered by Father Hoffa.
- \*Planning more activities such as a Corn Maze, Service with Lifeline of Berks County, Friendsgiving, Nerf Wars etc. More details will be sent later.

**CYO - Denise and Jason Leininger**

- \*Religion Awards (about 25) were given to LaSalle Academy Students and St. Benedict PREP Students at the end of the school year.
- \*There was a CYO Berks County Basketball Summer League this past Summer. Very successful with many participants. CYO had created a Berks County Summer League Committee.
- \*September 25<sup>th</sup> is the Annual Spaghetti Dinner at Victor Emmanuel's.
- \*October 30<sup>th</sup> is Kauffman's Chicken Sale.
- \*There are participants currently playing Volleyball, Golf and Cross Country.
- \*Planning projects for the Fall and Winter such as Blessing Bags for Christmas for the Homebound.
- \*Congratulations!!!The First Volunteer CYO Award was presented to Jason and Denise for all their participation as volunteers in CYO activities.

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**\*Old Business**

1. Updated list of phone numbers & email addresses for leaders of Outreach Groups

**\*New Business**

1. Schedule all activities through the Parish Office. There is a Master Calendar for all activities.

2. Organization for Parish Celebration for Deacon Mark Brezina. (Rich Conte)

Choir will sing at 11:00 Mass.

Set-up – Women’s Club and Knights

Food – Provided by the Knights

Desserts- Women’s Club

Drinks – Prime Timers

Clean-up – Knights and anyone who is present to help.

3. Hosts for Hospitality Sundays 2025

January 5	Bereavement
February 2	Prime Timers
March 2	CYO
April 6	Vocations & Lay Ministers of Charity
May 4	Women’s Club
June 1	Knights of Columbus
July 6	Family Life
August 10	Music Ministry
September 7	OCIA (RCIA) & Landings
October 5	Gardeners
November 9	St. Vincent de Paul
December 7	Respect Life & Caregivers

4. 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Saint Benedict’s Parish

Mark Schrum explained that next February we will celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Saint Benedict’s Parish. There is a History Book which will be published and sold. This should be completed by the end of this year (2024).

Mark is forming a committee to plan some type of celebration in 2025. Please contact Mark if interested to join the committee.

**\*Remarks by Father Stan**

1. Father Stan expressed his appreciation for all the activities that are available to our parishioners. The passion of our volunteers are amazing. He thanked us for all our help in the many areas for our parish community.

2. Father presented a letter from the Diocese asking for help in the giving of blood to those in need. We have used the Blood Mobile many times over the years to help this situation. It was stated that we are planning to have the Blood Mobile present during our Christmas Bazaar. The letter will be submitted to the Knights (Mike Maiers).

**\*Closing Prayer - Father Stan**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Ellie Albright  
Outreach Coordinator**

