

## **St. Benedict's Presidents Meeting Outreach Report March 25, 2025**

### **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.
- \*Cursillo Weekends for 2025 at Mariawald Retreat House in Shillington.  
Mens Weekend – September 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>  
Womens Weekend – September 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

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

- \*There are at least six members who have assisted at the funerals, meeting with families, planning the readings, etc. present at each funeral.
- \*Hosting a Simple Supper on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- \*Next Grief Support is tentatively scheduled to start April 14<sup>th</sup> and end May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- \*The Knights have been lending assistance when needed at the funerals including adult altar servers.

### **Book Club – Anita Harrison**

- \*Currently reading a non-fiction book "Trust" by Herman Diaz
- \*A new book list is being compiled for the next year.
- \*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.

### **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 and Pete Guerrieri.
- \* Winter Session is February 3rd-April 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **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 parish Easter Egg Hunt with the Women's Club for Palm Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- \*Next major event will be Trunk or Trest in October.

### **Friendly Visitors – Dennis Brizick**

- \*The group is 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 adopted for the Summer Season.
- \*Cleaning up the flower beds and mulching will take place at the end of April.
- \*Recycling paper and magazines.

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

- \*Knights activities with the Parish are running smoothly.
- \*Designer Bag Bingo was February 1<sup>st</sup> in FLC.
- \*Night at the Races was March 1<sup>st</sup> in the FLC.
- \*First Crab Cake Sale (Pick up March 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>).
- \*March 14<sup>th</sup> – First Lenten Fish Fry.
- \*March 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Rosary.
- \*Second Crab Cake Sale (Pick up April 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>).
- \*April 11<sup>th</sup> – Second Fish Fry.
- \*June 1<sup>st</sup> Parish Appreciation Breakfast (Hospitality Sunday by Knights)
- \*June 13<sup>th</sup> Golf Outing (\*Need contributions for raffle baskets/door prizes) Benefits St. Francis Home for Hospice Care.
- \*White Rose given to Parents at Baptism.
- \*Provides assistance to any Parish function, when needed.

**Landings – Kelly Leininger**

- \***Landings International has recently closed their offices in the United States. We have no choice but to end Landings at St. Benedict's.**
- \*There was a Fall Session starting October 6<sup>th</sup> and ran for 7 weeks.

**Lay Missionaries of Charity**

- \*They are scheduled to profess their vows on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the 8:00 AM Mass.

**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.
- \*Prime Timers hosted Hospitality Sunday on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Simple Supper on March 7<sup>th</sup>.
- \*Mark Schrum is planning trips for 2025. A trip to Connecticut Valley is possible for September.
- \*The Annual Prime Timers Trip to St. Patrick's Church in Pottsville was on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Berks Catholic provided a bus for transportation.
- \*A men's breakfast is held every second Monday of the month at 9:00 AM at the Breakfast Hut in Exeter Township. All are welcome.
- \*Planning for our annual picnic scheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup>.
- \*New members are always welcome. This is non-denominational Club.

**Property Committee - John Bergandino**

- \*Repairs are being made on the parish campus, as needed.
- \*Various lights are being repaired on our campus.
- \*The Rectory basement renovations are near completion for Parish use.
- \*Future Planning is to update the roof on the Church.

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

- \*A table is reserved for St. Benedict's at the Lifeline/North Star Banquet on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- \*The Carnation Sale will be on Mother's Day Weekend May 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>.
- \*Respect Life Team will continue the billboard ministry (The Adoption Alternative to Abortion – Real Alternatives). The Baby Bottle Campaign helped to fund the billboard. This fundraiser will start on Father's Day Weekend June 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.
- \*Caregiver information is provided through the St. John Caregiver Organization.

### **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 should be "system off" third button to the right.
- \*Planning a periodic review of the Emergency Plan and then brief our Pastor.
- \*Projects on HOLD pending funding (second state request denied):
  1. Right side of Church exit ramp for Handicap during emergency.
  2. New door keys with limited distribution but Organization access to key boxes.
  3. Front Door Replacement is pending a new estimate and state funding.
  4. Surveillance cameras.
- \*An Emergency Parish presentation is being planned for the future.

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

- \*Continues to support the needs of the poor whether by food, paying bills etc.
- \*Please sign-up to help when scheduled for Kennedy Soup Kitchen.  
Continue to check the bulletin to see when it is our turn to help again.
- \*SVDP works with 5 different food pantries in Berks Co. Actively involved with Kennedy House Soup Kitchen and Catholic Charities to help people in need.
- \*Collecting hams for Easter Baskets which will be prepared for Easter distribution .
- \*Food items are always accepted throughout the year.

### **Stewardship - John Bergandino**

- \*Working with the Parish Council to have a Welcoming for new parishioners.
- \*Planning to have a New Parishioners Meeting.
- \*Lenten Packets were prepared for distribution starting on Ash Wednesday.
- \*There is a booklet section in the Gathering Space. Many topics concerning the Church and world.  
All materials are "Free Suggested Donations".

### **Vocations - Mia Miller**

- \*Messages of support and encouragement are sent at least once a month.
- \*Scheduled to host Hospitality Sunday on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Women's Club – Rosanne Weidner**

- \*March 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> sold Irish Potatoes.
- \*Hosted a Simple Supper on March 21<sup>st</sup>.
- \*An Easter Candy Sale is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>t</sup>
- \*Assisting the Family Life Group for the Children's Easter Egg Hunt April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- \*Presenting Bibles to the First Communicants in May.
- \*Scheduling a Women's Communion Breakfast /Mini Retreat in June.
- \*Funding VBS for August.
- \*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, St. Ignatius, and Holy Guardian Angels.
- \*The group meets every Sunday evening at either St. Catharine's, St. Ignatius, or HGA.
- \*Every third Sunday is iWorship at HGA from 5-6:30 pm. Open to all.
- \*Scheduled to serve at the soup kitchen the weekend of March 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>.
- \*Will participate in a "Church Hop" after the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.  
There will be a school bus leaving from Saint Catharine's to visit 7 churches.
- \*Planning to attend the Steubenville Youth Conference July 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.

**CYO - Cassandra Jones**

- \*Basketball season was in full swing during the winter.
- \*Kitchen Kapers was in January.
- \*Declamation is scheduled for March and April.
- \*Track & Field is planned for the Spring.
- \*Art Show is scheduled for May.
- \*Summer Basketball League will be active again this summer.

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**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 & Caregiver

**Hosts for Three Simple Suppers during Lent before Friday Stations of the Cross 2025**

March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Prime Timers
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Women's Club
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Bereavement

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Ellie Albright  
Outreach Coordinator**

