**Ministry Reports June 2, 2020**

**Religious Education**

We have been working with Mark Murphy, our IT Manager to firm up a new on line registration form. At this point we are not sure when registration for 2020 – 2021 will take place.

Four First Eucharist classes need to make the Sacrament. We are in the process of coming up with a plan as to how to do this keeping the new distancing rules for the church. We also have two classes that have not received their First Reconciliation due to the coronavirus.

On Tuesday, May 26, I attended a Zoom meeting for Parish Leaders with DRE’s from the diocese, led by Patrick Donovan. It was a basic meeting to see what everyone is doing in his or her parishes and how The Leadership Institute can help. Faith Formation in now part of the Institute run by Patrick Donovan.

On Saturday, June 6 there is a Town Hall Meeting with Bishop Caggiano, and parents on how can we support parents in raising faith filled children.

Tuesday, June 11 Parish Leader Check in (Topic Fall 2020)

Marie Vandall and I have been working on a plan when we reopen in the Fall, which at this point will include students both in the physical classroom and online classes. All this is tentative at this point. We need to wait and see what happens with the virus in the Fall.

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| **Youth Ministry**  Since our last meeting in April 2020, Assumption Youth Group has managed to keep busy.  The treats and notes project for First Responders went very well. We opened up the project to the parish, and I made two large deliveries to the Fire Department, and 1 sizeable delivery to the Westport Police Department. This is an ongoing project  I held a middle school parent Zoom meeting in late April, to give them information about a mentoring program between our high school and middle school members. The idea was well received and we have since kicked off the program. High School met via Zoom to get details regarding how the program would be conducted. The project brought back some long absent members and attracted new ones. The program pairs a high school member (or two) with a middle school member. They check in once a week via FaceTime or Zoom to chat, help with homework, and play video or other games. The program so far has been a success and is building community during this awkward and difficult time. I have facilitated the introductions via Zoom when necessary, and check in with our “Assumption Amigo’s” high school group weekly. Overall, We have close to 30 middle and high school members participating.  I’ve met with Middle school group via Zoom twice in May- we played games, including having another scavenger hunt and game called “ 5 Second Rule” where I ask them to name three times( three kinds of fruit, three super powers, three things you hate etc…) and they have 5 seconds to answer. They have a lot of energy and are game for anything.  Also in May, we decided to “Rock the Church” as a Thank You to Father Cyrus and Deacon Bill for all their hard work during this Pandemic. Members of both groups made beautifully painted rocks, covered in symbols and words of hope, faith and thanks. Those rocks now line the back garden area of the church.  High School Group managed its first in- person, socially distanced get together on Wednesday, May 27 in the parking lot. Thank you father Cyrus for joining us. We had a chance to talk and I was asked if we could do it again, so we will hold another in-person get together to catch up on Wednesday June 3.  Moving forward I am attempting a “Summer Service Challenge” which will be a list of things both high school and middle school can do. Once a task is completed, a photo can be taken and sent to me. Prize for whoever manages to complete the challenge first. We are also attempting some sort of outside movie night (or two), if I can get hold of the proper equipment. This would be a socially distanced get together, parents invited as well, masks mandatory if we can’t keep a good distance.  **Helen Thiemann**  BEREAVEMENT GROUP  Last in person meeting was in mid-March.  About a month later, we began weekly Zoom meetings on Wednesdays at 3 PM for those in the group interested.  A dozen persons or so signed on and meet as scheduled. Not as satisfying as in person but quite successful in the midst of the corona-crisis. Our last Zoom meeting will be 17 June as meetings always cease for the summer months. Usually we gather once during the summer on Nancy Engel's deck; perhaps that will happen this summer. Members continue to contact one another even those who are not on Zoom to share support and companionship.  BOOK GROUP  Since in person meetings stopped before we finished reading THE LAMB'S SUPPER by Scott Hahn, we did so individually and then exchanged ideas and views about it on email. Members felt it spoke to our current situation. Hopefully we can arrange to share views through email or Zoom on interesting books to be read starting next fall (2020).  We usually do this at a summer luncheon, not feasible this year. Then we vote on about three we plan to read and discuss together for the following year.  HOME BOUND  The situation of sheltering in place stopped Eucharist Ministers from visiting the home bound.  Even though Fr. Cyrus and Deacon Bill are phoning parishioners, the usual ministers for the home bound were encouraged to contact the people they serve, as those home bound know them personally.  The ministers found that the home bound really appreciated that contact.  FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER/DISCUSSION GROUP  Members have contacted each other assuring prayers and offering support. But just recently several have expressed a desire to meet at some location observing the necessary distancing etc. requirements as they do miss the usual opportunity to share prayer and companionship. More later.  Submitted by Helen Thiemann  **https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/images/cleardot.gif**  **Social Concerns Ministry Report to the Parish Council**  January 2020  *Winter Warm-Up Collection* – We collected 172 coats and 150 pieces of warm winter clothing distributed to: Open Door, Blessed Sacrament, Missionaries of Charity, Dorothy Day, Sister Theresa Tremblay, Child Guidance, Soup Lady Legacy and Female Veterans.  March/April 2020  *Lenten Alms* – Unfortunately, due to the Covid19 pandemic and church closure, we were only able to collect $4,020 that we distributed equally to Missionaries of Charity, Catholic Charities, Adversity to Prosperity and Homes for the Brave.  April 2020  *Palm Sunday Food Collection* – Again, due to the pandemic we were not able to collect donated food from our parishioners. We used our funds to send checks to the charities we chose to be recipients. Park City Charity, Open Door Shelter, Missionaries of Charity and the Sepulveda Outreach each received $250 to purchase food for the needy they serve.  June 2020  We designate June as the month we collect nonperishable snacks for children at risk of hunger in the summer. Again, due to the pandemic we will not hold this collection. I called Missionaries of Charity and Sister Theresa Tremblay and they confirmed they will not have summer camp this year.  Ongoing Activities  *Merton Center/Food Kitchen*  Due to Covid-19 Virus, we stopped serving breakfast as of March. Social Concerns continues to support Merton with monetary donations.  *Soup Lady Legacy*  Sent e-mails to Mike Palumbo and Joe Esteves for an update but not have received a response as of today.  *Prayer Network*  Now, more than ever, people request prayers to the nearly 75 members of this ministry, who pray daily for those in need of prayer. Liz Lazarou is a very caring coordinator of these requests.  *A.C.T.S.*  A.C.T.S. was formed to answer simple requests from our parishioners for a ride to church, an appointment, etc.  Additional Donations  We’ve been keeping our eyes open to determine who may need some food and/or financial assistance during this pandemic. So far, we’ve donated food and/or small monetary donations to Filling in the Blanks, Mercy Learning Center, Merton Center, Adversity to Prosperity, Homes with Hope.    Respectfully submitted by Connie Luppino  **Knights of Columbus Report to Parish Council**  Fraternal Mass – Our last Fraternal Mass was planned for March 28, 2020, which was founder’s day for the KofC. Cancelled due to Pandemic Merton House – We have closed down our participation due to the current pandemic. This effort has been underway since 2014 and we hope to be involved again when the conditions are safe.  Membership Drive – The Knights of Columbus have streamlined access for membership during this pandemic. Candidates can join the Knights by participating in a 30-minute webinar. Our council has nine new members and all have been very active.  Stocking Food Banks – Our council has been involved in providing supplies for food banks including our parish pantry. A Drive-By Food Drive is planned for Sunday, June 14 between 9:00am -12:30pm.  Additional Future Activities – We are active in the parish, working closely with Father Cyrus to make a difference in assisting with outdoor Masses over the Memorial Day weekend and this past weekend. We will also be involved this weekend. In addition, we plan to assist with Phase II when Masses begin again with limited number of people in the Church.  The flags and “God Bless America” Banners on the front lawn and across the street on Riverside were arranged by our council for the Memorial Day week. We plan to do the same for the 4th of July week.  Pope Francis has approved a miracle attributed to our Founder, Father Michael J. McGivney this past week, paving the way for the beatification in the very near future. This is quite a tribute for a young Parish Priest who grew up in Waterbury, CT and founded the Knights of Columbus at the age of 31. There are now over 2 Million members worldwide.  Meetings - Members of the Knights of Columbus Council now meet on the 1st Tuesday of each Month at 7:30pm via Zoom.  Respectfully submitted, Bill Macnamara, GK, KofC Council 3688  **Carol Gabriel Parish Council Report**  The Book Nook is now closed due to the virus.  Liturgical Decorating:  Is now maintained by Fr. Cyrus, Carol Gabriel, Nancy Engle, and Helen Thiemann.  Altar Guild has been on furlough since March.  Nancy and I take care of the Linens. Helen, Nancy, and I take care of the plants.  Andrea Remlin takes care of the candles.  Late June the Sacristans and Small Linen Ladies will hopefully begin to follow their team schedules since mass will be in the church.  Submitted by Carol Gabriel   |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | |  |  |