

## **Parish Advisory Council Winter Meeting Main Take Away/MJM**

### **Background**

Rich Curran from Parish Success Group facilitated our winter meeting by presenting information/insights from church teachings and leading large group discussion. The hope was that his presentation and our subsequent discussion would inspire our parish to better serve/meet the needs of and engage more parishioners.

Rich's actual presentation deck (attached) provides an outline of the specifics of what he shared with the PAC, some of which did not pertain to our parish. More importantly these notes/collective group take away cull thoughts and ideas that apply or are meaningful to parish leadership.

### **Identifying the Goal**

In the face of declines in Mass attendance and youth formation program registrations despite an increase in the general Catholic population, a look back on church teachings suggests that the Church must continually strive to understand societal/cultural trends and needs and then adapt ministry to fill those needs. Our end goal is not necessarily to increase Mass attendance, (even though attending Mass might very well nourish their relationship with Jesus,) but to lead people to a deeper relationship or personal encounter with Jesus. When we attend Mass and are nourished in word and sacrament, we are to become Christ's body in our world; and at the end of Mass we are sent forth to serve others; we are ready to do his work. Our goal is not to bring people to Mass, but to help each person know and be in right relation to God, self, and others and become the person God wants them to be.

### **Discipleship Model**

Similar to other spiritual growth models, there are 3 general steps in a person's spiritual growth to becoming one's true self: knowing-seed (inquiry, learning, exploration), understanding-growth (learning is put into practice), and becoming-harvest (living it every day, appreciation, sharing).

### **Knowing the Needs of Our Audience**

We must know our audience; not just the needs of active parishioners, but everyone. We must be good listeners in order to learn the opinions and needs of everyone, especially those who are inactive.

### **Invitation**

It is our responsibility as Christian disciples to proclaim the Gospel to people of all ages through our actions/witness. As Christ sent his disciples out to teach all people, we too must reach out to others, understand their needs and invite them to programs and activities that attract/are of interest to them. Through personal invitation, involving others to experience what feeds us or deepens our relationship with God, and by being welcoming as their friend or mentor, they will be more encouraged and open to engagement.

Evangelization is inviting people to explore their existing relationship with God; it is listening to their ideas and making them feel welcomed. Parishes who thrive, understand evangelization is helping people integrate their secular and everyday lives with their spiritual lives. We must be missionary, not stationary in our quest to understand the needs, to meet people wherever they are on their spiritual journey and encourage them and engage them. We do not necessarily need to offer more programs, but we need to ensure that the programs offered are the best quality and content that fill the needs.

## **Finance Council Report to the PAC – Spring 2017**

Diana Januska, Finance Council Chair

MJ Martin, Dir. Operations

The Parish remains in good financial shape and we continue to make progress towards setting aside funds to pay our To Teach Who Christ Is (TTWCI) obligation to the Archdiocese. We are currently in the process of finalizing the budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The budget will include a significant capital improvement project that will be completed over the summer. After consultation with the Archdiocese and solicitation of several bids, the Finance Council approved a proposal to remove the existing boiler system and install a new boiler system in the school building. It will cost just over \$200,000 and we will use existing savings to pay for it. The school boiler system is the original system installed 58 years ago. Due to its age, it is recommended that we replace the system since new parts are not available for repairs. The project will also involve asbestos abatement in compliance with archdiocesan policy and state law. The new system will be more energy efficient, which will reduce annual fuel expense to operate the system.

## **CROSSROADS YOUTH MINISTRY PAC update May 2017**

### **Recent Past**

Good Friday living stations was awesome

Religious Goods sale to raise money for work tours successful as fundraiser & meeting needs of parishioners wanting gifts

### **Current**

Orientation/formation for teens attending ND Vision summer conference

Inviting teens and adults to join summer work tours

- Local serving SJC & Sharing Parishes June 19-23, open to junior high teens

- Habitat for Humanity in West Virginia July 15-22, only 2 spots left!

- Local Our Lady of Charity Sharing Parish July 24-28

End of Year Thank you brunch for Youth Ministry teen & adult leaders on May 7<sup>th</sup>

Beginning conversations on adaptations needed for Home Group ministry

## **Future Opportunities**

Ignite Summer Scripture faith groups meet weekly on Tuesdays;

starting May 16<sup>th</sup> for college teens, starting June 6 for high school teens

YOU! Summer video discussion group meeting for five weeks on Thursdays nights

Inviting adults to join our ministry 😊

# **Youth Catechesis Council**

YC Report ~ May 2017

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**As of May 1, 2017: Families: 608 ~ Students: 981 ~ Volunteers: 184**

*Submitted by Janet Caschetta*

- Registration Fair was great success – thank you to Council member who were able to help during Sunday and Monday.
  - 364 families are currently registered
  - 147 families are NOT registered
  - 97 families have 8<sup>th</sup> graders with no younger children in YC
  - To date 19 families have chosen to donate \$100 in lieu of volunteering.
- Day of Preparation Retreat April 22 for YC children
- Day of Preparation Retreat May 2 for School children
- Pre-Confirmation Meetings began with YC and school incoming Confirmation Candidates (incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders)
- Laurie Smillie and I saw a need to keep our children involved in faith during the summer and we are offering 4 events for incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders as well as one event for graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Jesse Manibusan is being booked for a concert next year on February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>
- Creating a Bridge Program – to minister to families of children who miss YC grades
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade small group information was given to each family at registration

## **Upcoming Events!!**

- First Eucharist Masses – Saturday: May 6 and 13 – 11:00 am and 2:00 pm masses
- Summer Junior High Youth Ministry Events:
  - Xtreme Taste of Faith – Saturday, June 24; 10-2 (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> gr) \$35
  - 13 Reasons Why – You are AWESOME – 5 Tuesdays beginning June 12 (8<sup>th</sup> & Fr) \$25
  - Local Work Tour – 5 Service Days at SJC or Sharing Parishes June 19-23 \$150
  - YLC (Youth Leadership Conference) – Weekend for Fr at Lewis University \$180

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades, Laurie Smillie Coordinator

7th Grade: Small Groups met twice in the home for the month March. The last class April 23rd was dedicated to service. Small Groups had the option of finding their own service project or choosing from various options provided. Service options included, cooking for the homeless, yard clean - up for aging adults, Supporting our Troops with Operation Gratitude or supporting The Children's Project with the Humanitarian Service Project.

8th Grade: Small groups met twice on Campus in the month of March. March 5th students listened to Bill Johnson speak on Character Building. On March 19th Christian Ras with Crossroad Leaders and Teens lead a lesson from Mathew Kelly called "Made for Mission". This was done in an effort to introduce 8th graders to the Crossroads team and explore taking the next step in their faith journey after 8th grade. The 8th grade also participated in Service Day on April 23 rd with the same options as listed above for the 7th grade.

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## Grades 3-6, Cathy Mahoney, Coordinator

Grades 3-6

We have finished our workbooks in all grades. We ended Grade 6 with a wonderful talk from Father Elliot Dees. He was able to come to both Sunday and Monday YC to yesterday's classes and show slides and share stories about the places the 6th Graders have studied in the OT. Fr. Elliot brought the places and people of the OT to life. Both classes had vibrant discussions and participated fully. Grades 3 & 4 will do their final Service project during the last class when they make "Thinking of You" cards that can be sent to parishioners in need over the summer months. Grade 5 did their final service project, making collages to brighten the rooms of residents in RML.

## Grades K-2, Maureen Hill, Coordinator

We only have one more YC session before the end of the year! We will have a Praise and Worship on the last day of YC.

The Day of Preparation Retreat was Saturday, April 22nd. It was very well attended and we received great feedback from Catechists and parents. The children did a group meditation, toured of the Church, tasted (and practiced receiving) unconsecrated hosts, practiced the Jesus Be Our Bread song for the First Eucharist Mass and other activities designed to prepare them for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. Five of the YC children who couldn't make it will be attending the Day Of Prep with the SJC school kids on Tuesday, May 2nd.

First Eucharist will be Saturday, May 6 and Saturday, May 13.

### Adaptive Catechesis, Cathy Mahoney, Coordinator

We have finished our last session. All students received a gift from the YC Office, a book ***We Are Catholic***. This is a wonderful way for the children to learn more about their faith, the sacraments, and the liturgical year. On Sat, May 6th Jack van Alphen and Nathan Sanchez will make their First Communion. On Sat May 13th, Lyla Ormsby and David Frehner will make their First Communion. All nine students have signed up to return to our SJC YC AC class as did all of our AC Volunteers!

## WELCOME CENTER UPDATE

1. We have registered 40 new families from January - May. This number is consistent with years past. All families were sent a welcome letter from Father David; then contacted by me via a phone call (mostly to cell phones) and an email.
2. I have hosted monthly "Meet and Greet" open houses for new members in the Parish Center.
3. I am working with MJ to update our Welcome package. We are updating the folder, the registration form and the ministry guide.
4. What I have been noticing is that we have a number of "Three Generation Families" in our Parish. Meaning, a founding family (or families that joined in the 70's) who raised their children here and now those children have returned to the parish to raise their families. So we have: the grandparent, the parent, the child. I have started a list of those families and will share it. Right now I have 40 founding families on my list.
5. The Welcome Committee is going to try something new this year at the Family Fest and that is to welcome our new members to tables under the tent on **Friday, June 23, 5:30-6:30**. They will be invited to purchase their dinner/drinks and sit with other new members for fellowship. Please stop by the Family Fest on Friday 5:30-6:30 to say hello to our new members.

# ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS OUTREACH UPDATE

## SPRING 2017

### KOLBE HOUSE/ASSUMPTION PARISH (Chicago)

**Pastor: Fr. Mark Bartosic**

**SJC Rep: Rose Horvath**

- Donate postage stamps, computer paper and toiletries
- Holy Hour participation at Kolbe House Santuario monthly
- \$1500 monthly support
- Mass participation at Kolbe House Holy Hour and prayer opportunities monthly
- Computer entry assistance by three parishioners (ongoing)

### PRECIOUS BLOOD MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION (Chicago)

**Director: Fr. Dennis Kelly**

**SJC Rep: Shawn Sweeney**

- Meals prepared at Parish Center, parishioner homes and Y.C. Student groups
- Clothing, art supplies, food, and more collected and delivered
- Financial support monthly (\$600)
- Food pantry support, Hams for staff and area families at Christmas
- 1400 plants (approx.) grown by SJC students and adults for PBMR garden
- Plants planned and organized by Geo. Zurowski (Eagle Scout Award)
- Annual Fundraiser supported and attended by SJC Parishioners
- Twenty Plus SJC parishioners participated in Cardinal's Peace March on Good Friday

### ST. GALL (Chicago)

**Pastor: Fr. Rene Mena**

**SJC Rep: Cathy Pesch**

- Monthly financial support (\$1500)
- St. Gall choir to sing at SJC 10:45 Mass on April 30 with a meal to follow
- Food pantry support (ongoing)
- Hams at Easter (80 families)
- Attendance at St. Gall parish fundraisers
- Financial assistance for Rectory updating (\$4000)

### ST. THADDEUS (Chicago) Parish Closed in November, 2016

### REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

**SJC Rep: Bill Mc Laughlin**

- Assist this Catholic Charities Program through financial support solicitation
- New mattress sets for each refugee with above donations when available
- Monthly check-in/update meetings
- Promotion and updates in SJC bulletin and on web
- Donation of Quarters (\$.25) for clothes washing machines through Y.C.

### BEDS Plus (LaGrange)

**SJC Rep: Bill Bright**

- Site food preparation – Youth Catechesis and Individual Parishioners
- Financial support of food purchases for preparation here at SJC
- Board level involvement
- Shelter Volunteers

- Clothing and toiletries donations (ongoing)
- Promotion on SJC web site and in bulletin(ongoing)
- Ground Breaking for new permanent Beds Plus Housing in LaGrange

HELPING HAND CENTER (Countryside)

**SJC Rep: Bill Bright**

- Large scale involvement of YC and SJC school children  
- Volunteering at Help Hand Center by children and parents
- On-going publication in SJC bulletin and web site
- Adult volunteering at numerous Helping Hand activities.
- Recognition of SJC support in Helping Hand publications
- Two Helping Hand clients hired at SJC School

WEB SITE MANAGEMENT FOR OUTREACH

**Leslie Karas**

FOOD PANTRIES

- |                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • <u>St. Cletus</u>  | • <u>Kolbe House/Precious Blood</u> |
| • <u>St. Barbara</u> | • <u>Mary Queen of Heaven</u>       |
| • <u>St. Francis</u> | • <u>Pilsen Community Center</u>    |
| • <u>St. Gall</u>    |                                     |

2017 GOAL: MOVE OUR INVOLVEMENT TO A HIGHER LEVEL!

**SCHOOL ADVISORY REPORT**

**May PAC Meeting, 2017**

St. John of the Cross Parish School is heading into the final few weeks of the academic year, finishing up the goals of each classes' curriculum. Recently the school has focused heavily on safety issues for students. There was an excellent presentation on internet safety and media awareness thanks to the efforts of Mr. Justin Smith, and the technology coach, Mrs. Sarah Kline. The Western Springs Police Department also gave many good tips on ways to monitor the technology use of your child/ren.

The children took the Aspire Assessment at the end of April. We hope to have the testing results before the year ends.

The students got the chance to show off their many talents through the school play, *Aladdin*, which was a wonderful success, as well as the band and choir concerts in May that highlights our Fine Arts Program. Spotlight on SJC may 10th allows an evening for parents to walk around the school and view their child/ren's accomplishments from this school year.

Our top 8<sup>th</sup> grade athletes participated in the LT Fitness Days on 5/1 and 5/3. Students completed their final Fortnightly on May 5th. Memorial Games are being held all day on May 19th. This longstanding

tradition brings the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class together through basketball games, skits, and song. It begins during the day and continues through the evening.

The children continue to pursue their journey of faith at all grade levels. The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have prepared for their First Communion in May. Grade 6 begins their first steps of the Confirmation process. And both the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will participate in the upcoming annual May Crowning. Following the ceremony, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade receives their school ribbons on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders also have a celebratory fun day coming up at Great America. Finally, 8<sup>th</sup> grade gathers one last time at the 5 PM liturgy, June 1<sup>st</sup>, followed by the Commencement Ceremony.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> grade Author's Day on May 26th demonstrates the children's growth in reading and writing throughout the year. Then the All School Awards Ceremony on May 30th recognizes our students' yearlong achievement in grades 1-8. Finally, our 3-year Preschool Picnic also occurs on the 30th and the 4-year Preschool Celebration on the 31st successfully marks the end of the year for the children.

During this 2016-2017 school year, in addition to continuing the Annual Fund Drive and Parent Association fundraisers, multiple efforts were made by various groups to keep tuition increases to a minimum despite the absence of some usual financial support. The "Time, Talent and Treasure" effort has been a great success and we greatly appreciate the many contributions put forth by the families of St. John of the Cross. This requires school families to participate in the Parish Community as a whole in order to receive the Parish subsidy, which directly reduces a family's tuition cost. And we continue to encourage all families to use the Scrip program, which involves purchasing gift cards that provide rebates to reduce your family's tuition cost.

St. John of the Cross continues its exemplary educational tradition. Tours are ongoing throughout the school year for anyone interested in finding out more!