

OUTREACH UPDATE FALL 2018

DIANE HARKEN; BILL BRIGHT

KOLBE HOUSE/ASSUMPTION PARISH (Chicago)

Pastor: T.B.D.

SJC Rep: Marilyn Cahill

- Donate food, postage stamps, and other supplies. Return to regular food donations requested
- \$1750.00 monthly support
- Mass participation at Kolbe House Sunday Mass and prayer opportunities monthly
- Computer entry assistance by two parishioners (ongoing)
- Staff and parishioner participation in ASSUMPTION?KOLBE HOUSE Picnic
- Donation of Helium Balloons, prizes:\$300 in gift cards, 150 stuffed animals, ,cup-cakes for the cake walk and more
- 28 SJC parishioners volunteered at the A/KH PICNIC (all day)
- Fr. Mark being elevated to Aux. Bishop on Sept. 17th Rose and Bill B. will attend
- New pastor to be named for Kolbe/ Assumption
- Welcome to Marilyn Cahill: SJC representative to Kolbe/Assumption Church

PRECIOUS BLOOD MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION (Chicago)

Director: Fr. David Kelly

SJC Rep: Shawn Sweeney

- Meals prepared at Parish Center, parishioner homes, and YC student groups
- Ongoing food donations collected and delivered (frequent, as needed)
- New refrigerated garden storage and 10' X 12' shed arranged and financially supported by SJC
- Monthly Financial support: (\$1000)
- Attendance and support of fund raisers

ST. GALL (Chicago)

Pastor: Fr. Rene Mena

SJC Rep: Cathy Pesch

- Monthly financial support (\$1750)
- Food pantry support (ongoing) through S.V.D.P.
- 30 SJC Parishioners volunteered at St. Gall Back to School Fair for St. Gall community
- Over 680 school back packs and school supplies donated by SJC parishioners

CATHOLIC CHARITIES (Chicago)

Refugee Resettlement Program

SJC Rep: Bill McLaughlin

- Assist this Catholic Charities Program through financial support solicitation
- New mattress sets for each refugee with above donations
- Monthly check-in/update meetings
- Promotion and updates in SJC bulletin and website
- Ham/and turkeys donated to some staff and Refugee families
- Plan annual outing for refuge children

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
- Need Shelter Volunteers
- Clothing and toiletries donations (ongoing)
- Promotion on SJC web site and bulletin(ongoing)
- SJC donations to new (opened March, 2018) Homeless Shelter: \$25,000+ , 2016 – 2018
- Attendance at Fundraisers

HELPING HAND CENTER (Countryside) SJC Rep: Diane Harken

- Large scale involvement of YC and SJC school children
- On-going publication in SJC bulletin and web site
- SJC adults and children volunteering at numerous Helping Hand activities
- Recognition of SJC support in Helping Hand publications
- Two Helping Hand clients employed at SJC School (ongoing)
- Volunteers from SJC working at both HH Centers

WEB SITE MANAGEMENT FOR OUTREACH SJC Rep: Leslie KarasSHARE CHRISTMAS 2018 SJC Rep: Lolly MaloneyFOOD PANTRIES SJC Rep: Shawn Sweeney

Food Organization – Elin Wheelihan

- St. Cletus
- St. Barbara
- St. Francis
- Mary Queen of Heaven
- St. Blasé
- St. Gall
- Kolbe House

GOALS FOR 2018

- Recruit additional Outreach Committee Members
- Establish a new Sharing Parish (Chicago West Side)
- Continue to establish support/relationship with Arch. of Chicago Office for Human Dignity & Solidarity – Immigration Ministry

Finance Council

Diane Januska, Finance Council Chair, MJ Martin, Dir. Operations

Annual Report Financials

Overall, the Parish is in good financial shape. During the past fiscal year, we maintained and improved the parish campus buildings and grounds, continued to support the parish school and YC and Crossroads programs, and made significant progress towards setting aside funds to pay our To Teach Who Christ Is (TTWCI) obligation to the Archdiocese. Support of the Sunday Offertory Collection, Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA), and the Family Fest remains strong. This continued stewardship coupled with strong financial expense management resulted in the parish reporting an operating surplus of \$151,498. The generosity of our parishioners continues to support our mission and allows us to support the mission of our greater Church and those in need within our community.

As we previously discussed, rather than conducting a five year pledge drive, St. John of the Cross' participation in the TTWCI Campaign will be addressed through our ACA overages. To date, we have set aside 93% or \$894,457 from our ACA overages that will be used to retire our \$1.2 million TTWCI obligation. During this past fiscal year, we made our first of five \$240,240 payments to the Archdiocese.

During the last fiscal year, several improvements were made to the parish campus infrastructure. These improvements included installing a new boiler in school building and a new chiller in the Parish Center and renovations to the Rectory to convert unused space living quarters. These projects were funded from parish reserves.

As the parish fulfills its commitment to the TTWCI Campaign, the Finance Council will continue to hold ACA overages in the parish reserves. Our savings will be used to make improvements and upgrades to our buildings and grounds as they become necessary. Frank DiPompeo is currently working with the Archdiocese and a roofing consultant to determine the projected cost of replacing the roofs on the Church, Parish Center, Rectory, and school building should replacement become necessary.

We are projecting a break-even budget for the next fiscal year.

The annual financial report will be presented to the parish the first weekend in November. The bulletin distributed at the Masses that weekend will contain a detailed summary of the parish's financial condition. In addition, Finance Council members will be available to respond to questions after all Masses that weekend.

Men's Club Report

John Cisek; Dan Montgomery; Bill Bright

The Men's Club is currently in 'maintenance' mode -- (7 men on the board including Bill Bright) trying to keep certain things running until we can find men to take over the reins.

Men's Club events are either social, service or spiritual oriented:

- Aug/Sep: BBQ and Bags Tourney, social
- Nov: Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast, service
- Jan: Trivia contest, social
- Mar: Crossroads Fish Fry, service
- Jun: Golf Scramble, social

There is a separate core group of men that have resurrected SAM (Spirituality Among Men) whereby 6-8 times a year we will gather (typically on a Saturday morning) to discuss a topic central to our faith. The next 2 SAM Gatherings are Saturdays: Oct. 13 and Nov 3.

Crossroads Youth Ministry Pre-Read

Collette Doyle; Topher Fryzel; Katie Nicholson

The Youth Ministry would like to inform you about events we have coming up, and our work towards fulfilling Cardinal Cupich's Renew My Church Initiative.

Where we've been:

- Summer of Service offered for all teens
 - SJC Garage Sale in June
 - Ronald McDonald House in July
 - Feed My Starving Children in August
 - Local summer work tour at Our Lady of Charity in Cicero

Where we're going:

- Incorporating more service, seeing Christ as everyone we serve
- Offering more leadership and community opportunities for teens (Go Ape, March for Life, etc.)
- Increasing knowledge of Crossroads via social media, teen-to-teen recruiting, 8th grade small group visits

What's new:

- Crossroads is now registration fee-free
- Freshmen Experience has welcomed St. Cletus teens, growing in community

Relation to Renew My Church:

- We are evangelizing by continuing our work with SJC's youth, but we wish to expand opportunities for our Crossroads members to invite other teens to Crossroads through experiences such as March for Life and activities similar to Go Ape
- We are continuing to work with our neighbors at St. Francis and St. Cletus; St. Cletus teens are joining in our Freshmen Experience and we continue to cooperate with both parishes for Kairos

Pastoral Ministry Report

Pat Demars; Steve Weigand

Adult Faith & Spirituality

- Alpha Evangelization Pilot
 - Leadership team met to evaluate Alpha pilot and schedule monthly meetings in preparation for launch in early Winter 2019.
- Marriage Enrichment
 - Preparing for Parenthood and Developing Emotional Intelligence for Marriage
 - Preparing for Parenthood Retreat: Nov. 3, Nov 10
- RCIA 2018-2019
 - Collaborating with SFX with 3 candidates from SJC and 6 from SFX

Pastoral Care

- Seasons of Hope Grief Support
 - September 10 – Oct 15
 - 15 Participants
 - Winter S of H to be hosted by SFX Parish
- Divorce and Beyond' Support for separated and divorced
 - September 20 – Nov 8
 - 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
 - 9 Participants
- Domestic Violence Committee
 - Hosting Non-Violent Communication Group Study
 - Last weekend in October Pillars Human Services present after all masses
 - Continued presence at local and diocesan events
 - Print material and resources in Parish library
- Nourish: Ministry for Caregivers (*NEW*)
 - Navigating Senior Care Conference
 - Fri. Nov. 9 (9:00 - 11:00 a.m.)
 - Mon. Nov. 12 (7:00 – 9:00 p.m.)

School Advisory Report

Mike Francis; Kathleen Gorman

- The school year is off to another great start! Our theme for this year is, “Faith to Move Mountains”.
- Enrollment is currently 631 students, slightly lower (less than 2 %) than last year.
- This year we welcome our new staff which includes: Mrs. Marks, Preschool 3, Mrs. Kimble, half day Kindergarten, Mrs. Freko, 1st grade, Mrs. Forst, 3rd grade, Mrs. Moore, 5th grade/LA, Mrs. Hinton, 7th grade/Science, Mr. Frisbie, long term PE grades 4-8, Mrs. DeLacey, long term PE grades PK – 3, and Mrs. Nelson, long term for 4-year Preschool. We look forward to the expertise and passion for education and children that each individual brings to SJC. Welcome!
- We celebrated the theme in our 8/28 opening school liturgy. On 9/17, our 8th grade highlighted service through the Triumph of the Cross. Grade 5 will plan the St. Francis Liturgy on 10/5, which concentrates on life, creation and stewardship, through the example of St. Francis.
- Meet the Teacher took a new format this year where families were welcome into the school from 9-10 am on the first day, then the school day began.
- To prepare students to thrive in the 21st Century, our STREAM program emerges that places a greater emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math since most job growth will occur in these disciplines in the foreseeable future. In implementing the STREAM initiative, we will deliver rich and relevant educational experiences to our students. STREAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Reading/Religion, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. This is one several Action Plans included in our 3-year Technology Strategic Plan.
- As part of our Wellness, we are attempting to educate all groups more about the importance in understanding food allergies and its impact upon the lives of students. A FARE (Food Allergy Research and Education) assembly was planned for our children and a Parent Night occurs on 10/4 in the PC. We encourage all to attend.
- Our teachers were required to complete three webinars, also relating to student wellness. They are Return to Learn: Concussion Protocol, How to C.A.R.E for Students with Food Allergies, and Asthma management for Classroom Staff.
- On October 1st and 2nd, a small group from the parish will attend two days of meetings regarding Renew My Church. These meetings should provide us with a new lens for the church moving forward.
- Grandparents Day occurred on Friday, 9/21. This presented a wonderful opportunity for grandparents to come into the classroom and see the children at work.
- Once again, tuition increase has been kept to a minimum this year thanks to the generous support of the parish, the success of the fundraising events, and tremendous response to the Time, Talent and Treasure program that continues for this next year. Families will be reporting their SJC community participation online this year to qualify for the discounted tuition rate.
- Overall St. John of the Cross is off to another fantastic year. We encourage anyone interested to check us out. Tours have already started for the 2018-2019 school year!

Welcome

Elizabeth Russell-Jones; MJ Martin

DEMOGRAPHICS OF OUR NEW MEMBERS

1. We have welcomed 114 new members since January (which is about 10 fewer than in the last 2 years). All families receive a welcome letter from Father Reszel; then I contact them via phone (mostly to cell phone voicemail); and then email to say hello and extend an invitation to meet in the narthex at our monthly Meet and Greets or to visit the parish center.
2. We were able to meet with 46 families in person which means we have met 40% of our new members.
3. The age breakdown of our new members:
 - a. 25-40 year olds = 58%
 - b. 41-54 year olds = 18%
 - c. 55+ year olds = 23%
 - d. Did not respond = 1%
4. Locations of our new members:
 - a. SJC Boundaries = 74
 - b. St. Isaacs = 7
 - c. St. Cletus = 6
 - d. St. Francis = 6
 - e. Other = 18 Darien (3), Downers (2), Cicero, Lemont (2), Oak Brook, Justice, Westchester (2), Brookfield (4), Riverside, Lisle
5. We continue to update our database based on our returned offertory envelopes. After the September/October mailing, we had 24 families who moved within our boundaries. (Ex. Downsize from family home to condo or upgrade from starter home).
6. We also have a large number of SNOWBIRDS in our faith community during the winter months which are noted on their envelopes as “temporarily away”. The September/October mailing had 10 families that were “temporarily away” which could be snowbirds, families that summer in Michigan/Wisconsin OR families renting while they are building their new home.
7. We continue to host our Monthly Meet and Greets in the Narthex usually at the 9:00 Mass. On average we meet with 3-5 families each month. We had a very successful Meet and Greet on September 9 which we were available at ALL Masses and met with 22 families. WOW! I think the “back-to-school momentum” helped.
8. Several of our 55+ new members have relocated to be near their children. These adults are assisting in the day-to-day activities of their grandchildren while the parents are both working. Several attend morning Mass. They are looking to find others with similar interests to bond with in our faith community.
9. We have started a “First Friday Coffee” once a month after the 7:45 Mass which we will host for the school year. We have hosted 2 so far and have had 25 guests at each gathering.
10. Caregiving – We have established a Caregiving Ministry. Steve Weigand has purchased a caregiving program entitled “Nourish”. We will host a seminar/workshop entitled “Navigating Senior Care” on Friday, November 9, 9-11 and Monday, November 12, 7-9. We will have a panel of speakers including one of our parishioners, Jane Sanchez.
11. Welcome Committee – I need new members on the Welcome Committee. The women I have now are involved in MANY school/sports/community activities and raising school kids.

Women's Club

Jenny Hounihan; Heidi Kotynek

The Women's Club is gearing up for another great year of activities, fundraisers and programs. We were on target with our budget from last year with a surplus of ~ \$2,800 and approved our budget for the 2018-2019.

** Hosted the annual camp out 9/21 for Mother's and Sons - huge turnout over 200 kids and Moms came out for the event.

** Evening of Reflection is 10/25 and will be a Holy Yoga Session followed by light refreshments.

** Coat Drive will be 11/3 & 11/4. Drop off bins will be in the Parish Center, the Narthex and the Parish School

** Boutique Shopping Night will be held 11/15 at the Parish Center (this is a biannual event)

**The biannual Advent by Candlelight will be held Monday December 10th.

** Vickie Rock and Connie Madden are hard at work planning a Women's retreat 3/1 & 3/2 that will be held at the Loyola University Chicago Retreat Campus in Woodstock. Although the theme is still in the works the hope is for it to be a spa like retreat with heavy hors d'oeuvres Friday night, a speaker Saturday, possibly a massage therapist or reflexologist and then time to enjoy the beautiful grounds which includes a labyrinth. It would end by 3pm Saturday afternoon.

YC Council
Jen Smykowski; Janet Caschetta

As of October 1st: Families: 579 ~ Students: 926 ~ Volunteers: 179

- YC started throughout September with all aged level groups.
- A Family Event Speaker has been scheduled for Sunday, November 18th at 3:00 and 6:30pm in SJC church, all are welcome. Mike Patin will be the speaker. He uses energy, humor and stories to affirm God's goodness and presence among us.
- Sacramental Prep has been scheduled and First Communion will be celebrated on two Saturdays in May, with two Masses each Saturday, a total of 4 Masses.
- The new Catholic Youth Bible has been distributed to all those in Grade 6. They have been well received by the Catechists and students. These bibles will follow the 6th graders to their confirmation in 8th grade