

Senior Fellowship Meeting- St Mary of the Hills –Sept. 10, 2014

Following refreshments, the September 9, 2014 Senior Fellowship meeting was opened at 10:05 a.m. by President Bob Sheldrick with a prayer led by Fr. Stan followed by the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Twenty-one members were present.

The minutes of the July 8, 2014 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report—Ginny Girardin gave the treasurer's report in Bill's absence. She reported that there is \$925.99 in Senior Checking and \$140.93 in cash on hand, no liabilities, giving an overall total of \$1,066.92. Bill will report on paid membership next month.

Committee Reports

Sunshine Lady, Kitty Kozlowski was the only member celebrating her birthday in September. However there were four wedding anniversaries: Jim and Ann Jannetta-44 years; Kitty Kozlowski –53 years; Bernie and Colette Marek -58 years; Joe and Virginia McMahon-68 years. We honored the birthday and anniversary milestones with a song.

Travel news

In Paul Blanchard absence, Bob Sheldrick presented an announcement given to Paul to bring up at today's meeting. The concert called "The FAMILY CHRISTMAS ROCKS" is at the Macomb Performing Arts Center, Clinton Twp on Sunday, November 23, 2014 at 2:30 PM.

Ann Jannetta informed members of the "C'MON, BE HAPPY" play at OPC on Wednesday, Nov.5, from 12:00-3:00pm. The \$14.00 for the event has to be in by October. The cost includes lunch. Again, we will car poll from St. Mary's since parking at OPC is limited. A sign-up sheet was circulated.

The visit to the HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER on Orchard Lake Road, in Farmington Hills, MI was delayed due to Paul's absence. Bob reminded members of our current policy that anyone who initiates or recommends an event is the person who follows through on arrangements.

Parish Council Report—

Virginia McMahon reported that the Council did not meet in the summer.

Old Business

- THE MASTER MEMBERSHIP list and Calling list were circulated for corrections. Questions were raised as to who remains on the membership list. One response was that those who pay their dues. Virginia said she discontinues sending birthday cards two years after members do not attend meetings and we do not hear from them.
- CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY-Hilda Maddens said plans are in place for the Christmas party to be held on December 9th at 6:00 PM. Details will come latter. The cost of chicken will come from our funds. There will be no December meeting.
- Barbara Sefcovic was hospitalized at Crittenden Hospital and Ginny visited her. Another member reported that she was not able to see her. Apparently Barbara also goes by the first name of Mildred and the hospital did not have Barbara listed. It is assumed that she has since been discharged.
- A motion was made by Joe Rogell and passed to give \$100.00 to support Alex Kiwior's Grandson's Eagle Scout project and the troop. The donation goes toward engraving an eagle from a large tree that was removed near the Veterans Park. The total cost of the carving is \$2,500.
- Kitty Kozlowski reported that setting up the food for the meeting is going well.

Father Stan's Talk

Changing Lives Together Projects

- The front covered entrance took 6 weeks. It was longer than expected and still needs some cosmetic enhancements. Father thanked us for our generous donations to Changing Lives Together that made it possible.
- The kitchen renovations will be the focus of our next project. But we will wait till the money to pay for them is available from CLT pledges.
- CLT money will also be given to Holy Family Regional School for technology upgrades. Asked why, Father said Holy Family School was included in the CLT campaign.
- The parish is also saving money from CLT pledges for future improvements and upgrades in heating/cooling, the roof and parking lot repairs.
- Hand Rails are installed in the Church Sanctuary making it easier for those who need them.

CSA—Target is not met and we are about \$10,000 dollars short. If we run short of our goal money comes out of the Parish operating funds. Fr. asked that we consider making our contribution if we have not done so. A question was raised inquiring how the CSA target is set. Father said that the Archdiocese has a formula taking into consideration the income of the area, actual amount of money the parish collects. It is not based on the number of registered families. About one third of registered parishioners contribute and attend regularly. The parish is not aggressive in getting rid of people who are registered but seldom attend. There are over 4,000 registrations since the inception of the parish.

Now that school has started, besides Religious Education, there are other events planned:

- Stewardship—The Parish is planning a Stewardship campaign asking parishioners to give of their time, talents and gifts not only money.
- Evangelization—In January the parish will start a Program of Evangelization to engage and deepen our relationship with Christ.
- 25th Parish Anniversary—Dinner or Mass, (not decided yet), are considered for celebrating our 25th anniversary at Petruzzellos where it all started.
- International Peace Day – is planned after the 11:00 AM Mass on Sept. 21st for table discussions of the causes and issues surrounding homelessness. You are encouraged to register to help planners know the number of tables needed.

Home Visits – Father said he has completed his home visits for this year. He stated that he came across former parishioners who are attending non-denominational churches mentioning how they enjoy Bible Studies. There are many who do not associate the Catholic Church with studying the Bible. He finds people who do not recognize him or know him when he visits. In these visits, he discovers opportunities where he can help people. Originally his goal was to visit 100 homes each summer, but it proved too ambitious. Rochester, Rochester Hills are finished and he stated visiting the roughly 100 parishioners in Shelby Township. About 60% of the people he visits are home. Kitty Kozlowski complemented Father and said it is awesome that he makes home visitations.

A question was raised as to what happens to the pictures taken at parish events such as the picnic. Individuals, not a parish photographer, usually take the pictures. Sam frequently goes around taking pictures.

50/50— Mary Davis received \$10.00 and \$11.00 went to the treasury.

Fr. Stan led the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 11:55

Submitted by *Janet Sheerin, secretary*