

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP MEETING- *St Mary of the Hills* -

Following refreshments, Virginia McMahon opened the **February 9, 2016 Senior** Fellowship meeting at 10:05 a.m. and led us in a spontaneous prayer followed by the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Eighteen members were present.

The minutes of the January 11, 2016 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report—Bill Girardin reported that there is \$799.97 in senior checking, \$23.84 in cash on hand, giving the treasury an overall total of \$823.81. There are no liabilities. There was an inflow of \$244,20 and an outflow of \$620.25.

Father Stan's Report

- Lent is an important time and the parish has many activities and opportunities for everyone to avail themselves of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- The theme for Lent is "Open Wide the Door of Mercy," We will focus on ways to show mercy individually, as a parish community and to reflect on God's mercy especially through the sacrament of reconciliation.
- During the Jubilee Year of Mercy parishioners will organize pilgrimages to the **Holy Door of Mercy** at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit.
- The Matchan Nutrition Center in Pontiac is St Mary of the Hills focus for Lenten alms giving. It is housed at St. Damien of Molokai Parish in Pontiac and is sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul of Detroit.
- To help Flint, the parish will try to make a connection with the one parish left in Flint and work with them.
- In addition to the regular rosary prayer groups, a rosary is prayed every Friday at 5:00 PM for the intentions of our parish, the Catholic Church and needs of parishioners. There is a box in the chapel to submit prayer requests.
- St. Dismas Prayer Group reaches out to the imprisoned. Members are given the name of a prisoner for prayer intercession and pray for that prisoner throughout the year.
- Stations of the Cross are offered on Fridays of Lent: 12:00 noon followed by soup and bread; 7:00 PM and on Friday, March 18th the Taize Stations.
- Richard Lane, the lay evangelist, will give the parish mission on April 4, 5, and 6.

Dee Mazzola said that four parishioners had the pilgrimage experience of entering the Holy Door. She explained that prior to walking into the chapel through the Holy door, it involves passing eight outside doors with material for reflection printed in English and Spanish. Once in the chapel, you write on a ribbon names of people you make a commitment to pray for and tie your ribbon under a designated arch. You also select an intention to pray for.

Sunshine Lady Virginia McMahon announced February birthdays: Fr. Strain, Irene Walsh, Bob Sheldrick, Loretta Kramer, John Hundiak, and Hilda Maddens.

Travel news

- **Paul** asked if there is interest in going to *Holy Door of Mercy* at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit. Janet Sheerin noted that since it takes time to pass by and read the messages on the eight outside doors, it would be better to wait for warmer weather. The Jubilee Year does not end until November 28, 2016, Feast of Christ the King.
- Paul will check on a visit to the birthplace of the Model T, the *Ford Piquette Avenue Plant* in Detroit. He said many things are happening in the area and efforts are being made to restore this historic industrial building.
- A sheet circulated for seniors to choose the day of the week they would like to visit the Solanus Casey Center on Mt. Elliot in Detroit. The preferred day of the week was Wednesday. A date was not chosen.
- **The** National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica is under consideration.

Everyone enjoyed the Pawabic Tile Co. Tour- on January 14th and the great lunch at Z's afterward.

. Parish Council—Michaeleen stated that Fr. covered the main topics considered by the parish council.

Old Business—There is no sign-up list for providing snacks for the meeting, Michaeleen stated that Kitty called her last month. We need a volunteer for March.

50/50—Geri Ruppert won \$8.00 and \$8.00 went into the treasury.

Virginia McMahon led the closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am

Submitted by *Janet Sheerin*, secretary