DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

January 2, 2018

Religious Education classes for St. Mary’s meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. St. James and St. Johns religious education classes meet on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and St. Boniface religious education classes meet at 9:25 am on Sunday. We currently have 73 students in the 3 programs. For Advent the religious education children all participated in the Stations of the Crib. One set is now on display under the Stations of the Cross in West Point. At our last class before Christmas the students of St. James & St. Johns had donuts and juice, worked on a special poster and heard a story; the West Point students had a party where they worked on a poster, sang the 12 Days of Christmas and learned the religious significance of the song; and had cookies and juice. The 12 days of Christmas is still on display in the Ossenbrink Center. The St. Boniface students put on a Christmas play after Mass on the 17th. The children from St. James, St. Johns and St. Mary’s all went to confession during Advent.

St. Mary’s and St. Boniface are currently working with 8 adults who will be joining the church at Easter. If you know of anyone who would like to join the family give Fr. Dennis, Fr. Bruce or myself a call.

There are currently 12 Catholics at the West Point Care Center and 5 at the Donnellson Care Center. St. Mary’s also has 10 homebound parishioners and 7 parishioners in assisted living. Fr. Dennis has Mass at the West Point Care Center the first and third Thursdays and Maureen Kieler takes the residents communion the other Thursdays and I take them Communion on Sundays. Fr. Dennis and Fr. Bruce have Mass at the Donnellson Care Centers on first Fridays. They alternate months and the other Fridays I take communion there and to 3 of the homebound in that area. The rest of the homebound receive communion on Sundays. St. James and St. Johns currently have 22 parishioners in nursing homes, assisted living, or are homebound. Fr. Bruce visits them often

St. Mary’s gives the parents of the newly baptized a blanket donated by either Eileen Pranger or Doris Kassmeyer, a book donated by an anonymous donor, and a cross made by Ron Westberg, and stuffed animals also donated by various parishioners. The K of C donates a rose to the mother and a rosary to the father of the baby for the Houghton and St. Paul parishes. St. Boniface Altar and Rosary ladies get a gift for the newly baptized in their parish and a blanket from an anonymous donor. The K of C donates a rosary to parents at St. Mary’s and St. Boniface. St. James & St. John’s also present the baby a blanket from an anonymous donor.

If you are an employee of a parish or want to help with children or vulnerable adults you must have the Protecting God’s Children training. Background checks must be updated every 5 years. Training is done online. The children are still required to do the Circle of Grace program as mandated by the diocese. All three of the audit forms for each parish for Virtus and Circle of Grace have been sent to the diocese.

The four parishes remember families who have lost a loved one with a prayer card on the one year anniversary of the person’s death. There are also cards sent at Christmas and Easter to all parishioners who are in long term care facilities. If you have a family member in a care facility please let me know. The parishes are honoring couples on their 25th, 50th, 60th anniversaries and all anniversaries over 60 will be remembered yearly.

The four parishes have started a prayer shawl/lap robe ministry. If you like to knit or crochet, please give me a call. So far we have 6 ladies who are using their talents.

Adoration on First Fridays is ongoing at St. Mary’s. We must have 2 people in the church every hour so we moved from every Friday to just the First Fridays of each month from 8AM to 5PM.

Lent will be here before we are ready. We also must have 2 people in the church at all times for Adoration. This means we will need many more to step forward to take an hour. Last year we had adoration from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm. This year we plan on having adoration from noon to 7:00 pm. If you would like to participate, please give me a call.

A bible study is being held every other Monday evening from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the parish office. Please come join us to learn more about your faith. Currently we have 7 individuals participating.

Respectfully submitted

Dixie Booten, Director of Religious Education