DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

February 5, 2018

St. Mary’s and St. Boniface are currently working with 6 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. They will be attending a retreat at the parish office on Saturday and on February 17 they will participate in the right of sending and the following day will travel to Davenport to meet the bishop.

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. During Lent all our children as well as all parishioners will be encouraged to bring personal care items to class or to church to help out the participants at the local food pantry. Watch for a list in the bulletin.

There are currently 14 Catholics at the West Point Care Center and 4 at the Donnellson Care Center. St. Mary’s also has 13 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.

Lent will be here before we are ready. We also must have 2 people in the church at all times. 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. Even thought the spots are all filled, please feel free to stop in anytime to make a visit. A perfect Lenten observance.

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 6 individuals participating.

Respectfully submitted

Dixie Booten, Director of Religious Education