DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

April 2, 2018

The second grade students and their parents participated in a retreat on March 11th in the St. Paul school. The children watched a video, baked bread and made the banners to mark their pews on First Communion Sunday. First Communion for St. Mary’s is April 8, St. Boniface is April 22 and St. James and Johns is May 6 in St. Paul.

St. Mary’s and St. Boniface had 5 adults who joined the church on Holy Saturday. One more will be joining us soon and I will begin working with 2 more this month. If you know of anyone who would like to join the family give Fr. Dennis, Fr. Bruce or myself a call.

During Lent all our children as well as all parishioners were encouraged to bring personal care items to class or to church to help out the participants at the local food pantry. If you would like to continue to donate these items, please do so. It had a powerful impact on the person who use the food pantry.

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. All classes will end the last week of April.

There are currently 16 Catholics at the West Point Care Center and 4 at the Donnellson Care Center. St. Mary’s also has 11 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. The children are still required to do the Circle of Grace program as mandated by the diocese. The diocese requires a 3 page audit form to be filled out for Protecting God’s Children and Circle of Grace and returned by April 13. They are a work in progress.

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.

 A big thank you to all who participated in our Lenten adoration. We will begin Friday adoration after Pentecost..

 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.

 VBS will be held July 23-27 with the theme of “Shipwrecked, Rescued by Jesus”. If you are interested in helping, please give me a call.

Respectfully submitted

Dixie Booten, Director of Religious Education