

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

April 29, 2019

We have started working on VBS for this summer. It will be held from July 22nd to July 26th. The theme for this year is “Roar”. Registrations will be available soon

We began a new study on the book of Revelation on February 4th at 6:30 at the parish offices in West Point. We currently have 11 participants. Everyone is welcome to join us. Please remember that we are life-long learners, especially with our faith

St. Mary’s had 4 First Communicants, St. Boniface had 3 and St. James and Johns will have 7. There was a First Communion retreat for the first communicants and their parents on March 3. First Communion for St. Mary’s was April 27th at the 5:30 Mass. St. Boniface was April 28th at the 10:30 Mass and St. James and St. Johns will be May 5th at the 9:30 Mass in Houghton.

We had 2 adults and 3 children join the church this year. I am still working with one adult who will join the church soon. If you know of anyone who would like to join the family give Fr. Dennis, Fr. Bruce or myself a call.

There are currently 14 Catholics at the West Point Care Center and 7 at the Donnellson Care Center. St. Mary’s also has 14 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 2 of the homebound in that area. The rest of the homebound receive communion on Sundays. I am working on setting a schedule for other Eucharistic Ministers to help out a couple of Sundays a month. St. James and St. Johns currently have 19 parishioners in nursing homes, assisted living, or are homebound.

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. 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 and a blanket. St. Boniface Altar and Rosary ladies get a gift for the newly baptized in their parish and a blanket. The K of C donates a rosary to parents at St. Mary’s and St. Boniface.

If you are an employee of a parish or want to help with children or vulnerable adults you must have the Virtus training. The diocese came to the parishes to do an on-site audit with both priests and myself. Also, the diocese is now using the Virtus program for all children. It stresses ways they can protect themselves and ways we can help them.

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 a prayer shawl/lap robe ministry. If you like to knit or crochet, please give me a call. So far we have 8 ladies who are using their talents.

Respectfully submitted

Dixie Booten, Director of Religious Education