DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

June 4, 2018

The four parishes held an anointing Mass on Tuesday May 15th at 9:00 a.m. at St. Mary’s in West Point. Fr. Dennis and Fr. Bruce celebrated the Mass and anointed all who come.

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. We welcome all teenagers to help out with the little ones. Also adults are most welcome. A bus will pick up children in Fort Madison and West Point to transfer to St. Paul. Please watch the bulletin for items to be donated.

St. Mary’s will have an adult joining the church soon and I am working with 4 more. If you know of anyone who would like to join the family give Fr. Dennis, Fr. Bruce or myself a call.

Religious Education classes will begin in August. Calendars and registration forms will be sent out next month.

There are currently 11 Catholics at the West Point Care Center and 6 at the Donnellson Care Center. St. Mary’s also has 9 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. 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’s safe environment program is being changed. I will attend a webinar on June 28 to see what the new program requires. We will no longer be using the Circle of Grace program. The diocesan audit for adults and children was approved for the 4 parishes.

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.

A big thank you to all who participated in our Lenten adoration. We have begun adoration every Friday from 8 to 5 until next Lent.

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