DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

July 29, 2017

If you would like to join the church or just see what is needed to join, just give Fr. Dennis, Fr. Bruce or myself a call. There is currently 1 child working towards baptism into the church. Two gentlemen have expressed interest in starting the journey in the fall.

The Catholics at the West Point and Donnellson Care Centers always look forward to receiving the Eucharist. I am able to give them that blessing once a week and Maureen Kieler services the West Point Care Center on Thursday’s when there is not a Mass. Communion is also taken to homebound on Sunday’s. St. Boniface has a Eucharistic Minister who will come to your home. Please let us know if you are not able to make it to Mass. If you would be interested in this ministry, please give me a call.

I prepare and send letters to parents of newly baptized from the 4 parishes. They receive a letter every 6 months with ways to share their faith and help their child grow in faith. Each one contains a small gift for the family or the child. This has been a ministry of the parishes now for almost 15 years. St. Mary’s gives the parents of the newly baptized a blanket donated by the sewing ladies, a book donated by an anonymous donor, and a cross made by one of our parishioners, and stuffed animals also donated. 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.

Religious Education classes will begin in September. Registration forms will be mailed and in the churches the first part of August.

Now is a great time to check out St. Mary’s and St. Boniface’s libraries that have selections for families, women, children, grief, history, biographies, stories of the saints, and much more. This includes books, videos and DVD’s. St. Mary’s has decided to close our library. If you would like to come in and pick out books you might like, please do so.

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. New and 5 year renewal people do their training online. If you are a renewal, please contact me before you do your online training. 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.

 VBS ended July 28th. We had 78 children enjoy a week at Maker Fun Factory. Our Kid to Kid project was to raise money to help drill wells in communities who do not have access to clean drinking water. $196.02 was raised and will be sent to Catholic Relief Services. Thank you to everyone who helped make this week such a great success.

 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. We also had a lady donate a huge supply of yarn for the ladies to use.

 Adoration on First Fridays only has begun. 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 8 to 5.

 A bible study began on Monday evening July 10th. Please come join us to learn more about your faith. We will be meeting every other Monday from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Dixie Booten, Director of Religious Education