

1. Steve Frank opened the meeting at 7:00 with a prayer. Roll call was taken. Those in attendance are noted below.

Status	Name	Ministry/Committee Assignment
X	Fr. Jake Greiner	Pastor
X	Fr. Andrew Rauenbuehler	Parochial Vicar
X	Chuck Gerlach	President, Odd Jobs
X	Steve Frank	Vice President, Finance Council
X	Jennifer Stratman	Secretary
X	Mike VanSpeybroeck	Church Life
X	Shawn Atwater	Family Life, Knights of Columbus
X	Ralph Armstrong	Faith Formation Liaison
X	Denny Prior	Wellness
X	Jean Simpson	Social Action Christian Service
X	Cheryl Wagner	Liturgy
X	Bernie Mack	Ex-Officio (Lay Director)
X	Judy Johnson	Ex-Officio (Lay Director)
X	Chad Steimle	Ex-Officio (JFK Principal)
	Helen White	Ladies Council
	Evan Brankin	Ex-Officio (Youth Ministry)
	Jennifer Wernhoff	Ex-Officio (Adult Education)
	Kaye Meyer	Ex-Officio (K-8 Faith Formation)
	Marc Mosse	Ex-Officio (Deacon)
	Maureen Mosse	Parishioner
X	Tom Posten	Board of Education Rep

(X = Present)

2. A motion was made by Steve Frank to add discussion of a Parish Appreciation Dinner date to the Agenda. It was seconded by Denny Prior and approved by the council.
3. The minutes for June were approved.
4. The mission and vision statements were read.
5. Old Business

Parish Picnic - Mike VanSpeybroeck gave an update to the Parish Picnic plans.

6. New Business

Committee Assignments – A motion was made by Father Jake that Steve Frank be the Parish Council Representative to the Finance Council. It was seconded by Denny Prior and approved by the council. At this time, no other council members will change their committee assignments.

Parish Ministries Handbook - The Stewardship committee is asking each council member to review the Parish Ministries Handbook to see if there are any revisions, deletions or additions that need to be made before the handbook is reprinted.

Parish Appreciation Dinner – A motion was made by Steve Frank that we add the Parish Appreciation Dinner to the church calendar for January 15th,2022 It was seconded by Judy Johnson and approved by the council.

7. Ministry Reports.

- Social Action/Christian Service – Report Attached.
- Church Life- No Report.
- Stewardship – Report Attached. The Little Burgundy stewardship books will be available again starting in September.
- Ladies Council – Bazaar committee has met and are planning to hold the Bazaar the first weekend in November. St. Anne's Euchre night is set for the first Saturday in October and flyers will be out within the next couple weeks.
- Wellness – Report Attached.
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- Vocations – No Report.
- Faith Formation
 - Faith Formation / RCIA – Report Attached
 - Adult Education – Report Attached
 - JFK/Board of Education – Report Attached
 - Youth Ministry/Confirmation – Report Attached
- Family Life – No Report.
- Finance & Administration – Report Attached.

OLV is in a very good financial position due to good management of expenses and extremely generous parishioner giving.

8. Standing Committee Reports

- Knights of Columbus – Report Attached.
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- Assumption High School – No Report.
- Odd Jobs- No Report. Several volunteers came out to clean up the shrubbery around the rectory to get ready for the new gutters that will be installed in the Spring. New mulch was laid as well.
- Liturgy – Report Attached. Mass volunteers are still needed -especially Eucharistic and Hospitality Ministers. Rita Hagner has resigned as Sacristan. Her duties will be divided among 3 members of the Liturgy committee.

9. Parish Council representation at the monthly Board of Education meeting is as follows:

September – Denny Prior
October – Steve Frank
November – Jennifer Stratman
December – Cheryl Wagner
January – Chuck Gerlach

As a reminder, the Board of Education meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30.

10. Parishioners Comments –

Judy Johnson asked if the yard waste bags stacked at the storage shed in parking lot could be removed.

Bernie Mack let the council know that there will not be a Harvest Dinner again this year.

11. Pastor's Comments-

The Faith Formation committee held 2 Town Hall Meetings on August 8th and 9th to gather feedback and develop some goals and objectives for Faith Formation at OLV.

IGNITE Sundays will begin on September 12th and be held 12 different Sundays throughout the year. Each evening will consist of Mass starting at 4:30, a meal, and various group activities as well as some family time.

A Volunteer Coordinator position is being considered at OLV. Discussions are being held on what the job duties would be and where funds would come from to pay the person in this position.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal will launch at the end of September

A Diocesan Capital Campaign will most likely be initiated sometime this calendar year. More information will be coming on this.

Father Jake asked the council for ways we could tell parish members "Thank You" for their generosity towards the Capital Campaign. Several suggestions were given.

Father Jake will spend $\frac{3}{4}$ of his time as the Pastor of OLV and $\frac{1}{4}$ of his time as the Director of Seminarians. This position will require some travel on his part. Father Andrew will fill in during his absences but it also a teacher at Assumption High School this year.

12. Our next meeting will be September 28th at 7:00pm in the church Gathering Space. A Zoom option will be available as well.

13. Meeting adjourned with closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Stratman
Secretary

Special Collection for Bishops' Emergency Disaster Fund

USCCB has asked all bishops to take up a voluntary special collection in their dioceses for the Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund. Donations will be used for humanitarian needs and long-term recovery stemming from the Afghan refugee crisis, earthquake disaster in Haiti, and catastrophe caused by Hurricane Ida across several U.S. states. Funds will be distributed where most needed through Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services. This special collection began September 18-19.

As Our Lady of Victory faith community grows in embracing stewardship as a way of life, the Stewardship Committee has prayerfully deliberated about the notion of a one-time parish donation to this special collection. We recommend a tithe of 2.5% on the \$200,000 net gain in income realized at fiscal year end June 30, 2021. That is, an outright gift of \$5,000 from general operating funds, to be forwarded as soon as feasible through the usual channels for remitting collections to the Diocese.

Encouragement for this action comes directly from our parish mission statement: "To live and share the preaching, teaching and healing of Christ." At the moment things are getting better in Haiti and the areas affected by Hurricane Ida, but people continue to suffer and it will be a long-term recovery for tens of thousands who were devastated. As a stewardship parish we strive to give witness to others about the Christian responsibility to build up the Body of Christ, and provide example by modeling the type of charitable giving that we encourage our members to assume. Just as every disciple of Jesus has a need to give and a responsibility to help the Church do God's work, faith communities often discover that they, too, have a need to give outside of themselves. The world urgently needs our help!

Approval of the following resolution is respectfully requested by the OLV Pastoral Council at its next regular meeting.

The Parish Pastoral Council, upon recommendation of the Stewardship Committee, hereby agrees to make a one-time gift of \$5,000 to the special collection announced by USCCB for relief efforts to assist Afghan refugees, Haitian earthquake and Hurricane Ida victims. Remittance to be made from general operating funds at the earliest opportunity.

*Give to our brothers and sisters
throughout the world as if once more
Jesus has come into the world
cold, hungry, and alone.*

St. Theresa of Calcutta
October 15, 1972

Adult Faith Formation report to the Parish Council (September 2021)

Submitted by Jennifer Wemhoff

I participated in pastoral staff meetings during the month of September.

I write bulletin articles as needed.

I wrote an article for the upcoming Victory Voice.

Kaye and I have been working together on IGNITE Sundays. There were approximately 100 people that took part in the various aspects of the first IGNITE Sunday. IGNITE Sundays would not be possible without the numerous volunteers, from those providing and serving the food, service project coordinators, child care volunteers, elementary and high school volunteers. Our second IGNITE Sunday was held on September 26. Please see the website for future dates and topics.

I am helping to prepare the meals for the NET Retreats to be held September 28 and 29.

I am facilitating a discussion of the book ***Our Not Quite Holy Family*** by Mark and Melanie Hart once a month on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 in the Parish Center.

An 11-week study on the book of Revelation began on Thursday September 2 from 6:30-8:00pm in the GSMR and virtually over Zoom. There are 32 people signed up for this study.

Rejoice! Finding Your Place in the Advent Story journals have been ordered again for this Advent. They will be available in November.

Church Life Aug/Sept. 2021

Featured events, Parish Missions and Church news.

Two Town Hall meetings were held in the Church on Sunday, August 8th at 4:00pm and Monday, August 9th at 7:00pm. A livestream option was also available. What was shared at the meetings was taken back to the Faith Formation Committee (FFC) for discernment about goals and the future of faith formation at our parish.

Knights of Columbus Loras #532 Annual Steak Fry

When: Monday, August 9, 2021 Where: K of C/Columbus Club Hall 1111 W. 35th St., Davenport.

The 99 Experience, a three session parish mission sharing the Gospel in a fresh new way, August 15-17 (Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday) from 3:00-4:30pm on Sunday August 15 and from 6:30-8:00pm on August 16 & 17 in the Gathering Space at Church. No cost to attend nor was registration required.

A new school year in August with a new HVAC system that was installed over the summer months. The new school HVAC system would not have been possible without the parish's generous support of our capital campaign.

It was announced Fr. Andrew will be teaching at Assumption in the late mornings and early afternoons.

OLV Parish Picnic

Date: Saturday, August 28. Time: 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Music provided by: Sonora Sazon De Antano Lunch: Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Chips and water included in ticket price. A warm welcome for all provided by Social Action/Christian Service Ministry.

K-8 Faith Formation. Faith Formation classes began September 8, 2021.

Due to high demand, another Matter of Balance class was scheduled for Wednesday, September 8th. The eight week class scheduled through October 27th.

Social Action/Christian Service posted their appreciation for donations to Humility Homes and Services, Inc. and a thank you to Knights of Columbus for a donation drive-up event. Also announced, Second Sunday Housing Crisis Film Study starting in September and continuing through December 12th.

Social Action/Christian Service has an ongoing collection of items for Humility Homes and Services to help support people transitioning into more stable housing. Donated items collected in boxes located at the church entrance.

September 5, 2021 Bulletin Announcement:

The very first IGNITE schedule for IGNITE Sundays - starting September 12.

4:30-5:30pm Mass

5:35-6:05pm Meal in the Parish Center (Menu: Baked Potato Bar and hot dogs)

6:10-7:15pm Group Gatherings (Topic: God's Creation and Stewardship)

There is a family component to the evening, after being in small groups, families will come back together for the last 20-25 minutes of the evening to do a family activity. Those who are not participating in the family component remain in their small groups to finish the evening. Our goal is to finish and have people heading out the door at 7:15 to get home. Break down of the groups: Babysitting (children not yet in Kindergarten) ECLC; K-2nd grade (God's Creation & Stewardship) JFK Classroom; 3rd-5th grade (God's Creation & Stewardship) JFK Classroom; 6th-8th grade (God's Creation & Stewardship) Library; High School Baseball field (games and campus clean up); Young Adult, Rectory Patio with Fr. Andrew; Adult Topic (God's Creation & Stewardship) Parish Center Carpet; Prayer (for those participating in IGNITE) Church; Service Project (Little Food Pantry); Gathering Space; Adult Other - Game Night with Euchre tutorial, Gathering Space Meeting Room

IGNITE Sundays: Sept. 26: "When Mass feels like going through the motions"

4:30-5:30 Mass

5:35-6:05 Meal – Pizza and Gluten Free Pizza

6:10-7:15 Group gatherings (All ages)

IGNITE Sundays dates and Themes in October:

Oct. 10: Why does God Let Bad Things Happen?

Oct. 24: What is Hope and Why do you need it?

Youth Ministry did a great job promoting Ignite Sunday along with YM programs, Faith Sharing, a Color Party and Youth Ministry Spotlights featuring YM volunteers.

Confirmation preparation began for 7th grade with a meeting for all 7th grade students and parents on Thursday, September 9, 2021 from 6:00-7:00 PM. All 8th grade students and their parents were asked to attend a meeting regarding Confirmation on Thursday, September 9, 2021 from 7:00-8:00 PM in the parish center as well.

OLV Wellness Committee held their annual book sale in the OLV Gathering Space and Gathering Space Meeting Room on Saturday September 11, 2021. Proceeds benefit the OLV Health Ministry Program and Parish Nurse Program.

A thirteen-week session of GriefShare was scheduled to start Sunday, September 12th from 12:15pm - 2:30pm in the Gathering Space meeting room.

GriefShare offers help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, parent, child, family member or friend.

In honor of the Season of Creation celebration OLOV will feature a presenter, Deacon Frank Agnoli, on Laudato Si Tuesday, September 21st. A virtual option via Zoom will also be available.

7th and 8th grade students were requested to save the date for a NET Retreat. The retreat focusing on 8th grade was scheduled for Tuesday, September 28; and, on Wednesday, September 29, a 7th grade retreat was scheduled.

Also discussed in Church Life meetings in August - OLOV's 60th Anniversary year-long celebration. Proposed: build a monthly calendar of events/articles in the bulletin recognizing people and history of the Church leading up to a special celebration in December. Possibly a liturgical celebration of the 60th Anniversary of OLOV's first Mass (1st Mass was held in the month of December) with a reception to follow. Reception to possibly feature displays/historical items and displays of recent accomplishments made possible by the Foundation and Capital Campaign.

Parish Council Report for September, 2021

Coordinator Religious Education / Safe Environment Coordinator (Kaye Meyers)

- We currently have 51 students registered for 2021-2022 Faith Formation. Our first class was held on September 8, 2021.
- We will host Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 23 following the 4:30 Mass.
- Prepared materials and protocols for this Faith Formation year. Hosted parents the first evening to explain protocols and answer any questions.
- Prepared materials and held in-service for catechists on August 25, 2021.
- Prepared materials and held meetings for 7th and 8th grade Confirmation students and parents on September 9, 2021.
- Prepared activities and hosted First Reconciliation preparation meeting on September 20, 2021 for students and parents.
- Preparing for NET Retreats to be held September 28 and 29, 2021. Securing host families, donations and materials.
- Held our first IGNITE Sundays on September 8, 2021 with over 100 participants. Work with Jennifer Wemhoff to continue developing plans, securing volunteers and preparing materials as well as marketing for IGNITE Sundays.
- Prepare lessons and meet with each 8th grade JFK religion class once a week as a part of their preparation for Confirmation.
- Participate in weekly pastoral staff meetings.
- Write weekly bulletin articles and quarterly Victory Voice articles.
- Document monthly expenses and income to the Faith Formation budget.
- Verify compliance with Safe Environment requirements for employees and volunteers at JFK and OLV. Send notices and reminders for those needing to update background checks and training.

Principal's Report to Parish Council: September 2021

Based upon information from the Principal's Posts (also available online)

Students Appreciate School Air Conditioning

The school HVAC project was completed just in time for classes to begin. This \$1 million project included the installation of a high efficiency heating/cooling system, rooftop units for the gym, and mechanical ventilation. Although the primary goal was to resolve the aged heating pipes issues, students are really enjoying the air conditioning:

"With the AC, it's easier to focus on schoolwork because we're not wiping our heads or getting sweat on our schoolwork."

"It may be a hot day outside, but now I have air conditioning so it is not boiling hot in our classroom."

"When it is super hot, it gives me a headache or upset tummy. The air helps keep me cool."

"I'm so grateful for all the people who gave money to us to have air conditioning. Last year in 4th grade, I was so hot and couldn't concentrate. It was so generous that you donated to us. Thank you!"

"Bless everyone who gave us money. Learning is way easier in the air condition. Thanks!"

Even the administration, appreciates the A/C: "When the heat index hit 106 on Tuesday [the second day of school], we didn't even think a bit about having to close early due to the heat. Air conditioning is a blessing!"

We are so grateful to the many donors of the Cultivating Our Future capital campaign.

Enrollment Increase

While the official enrollment count in Iowa is still about a week away, it looks as if we will have about a 4% increase in K-8 enrollment this year compared to last year. Three year old preschool will also be up dramatically (45%). Four/five year old preschool will probably be in the low 50s, about the same as last year, and ECLC is currently down about three students.

Federal Funding/Services at JFK

Since spring 2020 through June 2022, OLV/JFK is on track to receive as much as \$1.3 million or more in federal funding or services, most of it related to COVID relief. Some of the benefits include the following:

- Payroll was supported during the shutdowns of the school and parish during the spring/summer 2020
- School lunches were/are free to all families for two years
- JFK finished becoming 1 to 1 with Chromebooks in grades 3-8 and iPads in K-2
- Reading interventionist services and instructional aide time were retained/increased
- School-based therapist services are free for students for the next two years
- Leaps & Bounds summer programming should be free next summer
- Other purchases were made, including the following:
 - Webcams, microphones, and document cameras
 - Zoom and other software licensing
 - Science supplies/equipment
 - PE and recess equipment
 - Coordinated clocks and a bell system
 - Additional two way radios for use by staff
 - Portable air purifiers and fans
 - Cleaning supplies and equipment such as more than \$11,000 in Chlorox-wipes types of products, \$6,000 in hand sanitizer, and electrostatic sprayers

5th Grade X/Y Coordinates Project

JFK fifth graders were learning about x/y coordinates outside, using our large campus. Below is a photo taken from one of two drones that were helping the classes.



Lack of Substitutes Seems Widespread and Dramatic

As I was sending some information to *The Catholic Messenger* for an article they did on the widespread lack of substitutes, it became all too apparent just how dramatic of a change it has been at JFK. Two years ago, before the pandemic, we had ten substitutes available, the most we have ever had. At the time I was providing information to the Messenger, we had five. Today, we have three available, and some of them are limited in the length or types of assignments they can take. Our workforce, which is about 40% support staff and whose duties also often need to be covered when staff members are absent, is trending in the wrong direction for absences. We are now averaging about 1.6 staff members gone per day through the first five weeks of school. That's still way better than one of our neighboring private schools which indicated that they were experiencing days with as many as ten staff members absent!

JFK is in need of substitutes for both long-term assignments (like maternity leaves) and short-term assignments (like when a teacher needs to stay home with his/her own sick child). **You do not need a teaching degree to work as a substitute.** A minimum of an associate's degree may be enough to qualify. The process to become a substitute teacher includes completion of a 15-20 hour workshop, multiple background checks, and applications with the Iowa Board of Education Examiners and JFK. Workshops are being held almost every week throughout the state, and many of them are virtual so geography does not need to be a limiting factor.

Recognizing the need for substitute teachers, JFK's board has authorized a \$450 bonus at the pay period following the fifth day of substituting at JFK to the first five people to take advantage of this offer. The bonus will essentially cover the workshop fee, license application fee, background check fee, and pay an amount for the workshop time.

If you are interested in being a substitute, please contact me.

COVID

COVID-19 continues to be a significant factor with which schools must deal. Within the first five weeks of school, we had as many positive student cases as we did in the first several months of the school year last year. So far, however, there do not seem to have been any large outbreaks in classes.

With things moving back more to “normal” this year, almost every positive student case has close contacts at school. Although no longer required to do contact tracing, we are still trying to do it at JFK so we can inform parents, and parents can then make decisions about testing and/or quarantining their children. Positive cases are required to be out of school, but students, in Iowa, who are close contacts are not.

Face masks and vaccination mandates continue to be in the news. Although the Iowa legislators passed a law in May banning mask mandates in schools, there is currently a temporary injunction prohibiting its enforcement. The Davenport Community School District, which was named in a lawsuit for not having a mask mandate, enacted one last week. Other surrounding school districts are considering their options again, and the Diocese of Davenport is continuing to consider possible courses of action.

I have been asked a couple of times about how many students and staff are wearing face coverings and staff vaccination rates. We do not have any formal counts. Based upon walking through the building, I would estimate that there's probably about 3-4 students (15%-20%) in each homeroom who are wearing face masks when in the classroom and more when moving through the halls and when within 4 feet of one another inside the building. There's probably about a similar percentage of staff wearing face masks when around other people. An estimate of the staff vaccination rate would be purely speculative.

Social Action met on zoom September 21st at 6:30 pm. Those in attendance were Jean, Honore, Denny, Kathy, and Deacon Frank. After a short meeting they were joined by others for Deacon Franks 's presentation. Guests Barb, Kent, Glen, Nancy, Linda, Ann

Jean reported on how successful our booth was at the parish picnic. Jean and Honore took over 50 photos of singles, couples, and families attending. The kids enjoyed dressing up.

Jean said we will probably be doing a drive for HHS in October. She also reported that the gift certificate was given to the sponsored family.

Deacon Frank then gave an excellent presentation on Pope Francis's encyclical Laudato si - on care for our common home. It was followed by questions and discussion.

Minutes from Stewardship Committee Meeting
Our Lady of Victory Church, Davenport, IA
September 13, 2021

Members present: Chuck Gerlach, Peg Macek, Deanne Mainey, Judy Johnson. Chuck led opening prayer.

1. Annual Diocesan Appeal. Goal for this year is \$148,000. Fr. Andrew will be witness speaker.

2. Little Burgundy Books will be distributed beginning September 18-19, until supply lasts. Bulletin publicity and pulpit promotion have been arranged. 300 copies purchased at cost of \$270.

3. Handbook of Ministries. Work is progressing on updating activities/organizations listed, plus script adjustments. Most are responding with updates to contact information as well. IGNITE Sundays was added to Parish Life section. Hope to go the printer in early October. Cover design will be updated to distinguish from previous editions.

4. Spotlight Ministry Fair

Schedule of ministries (includes the Saturday 4:30 Mass)

Week of Oct. 3—Hospitality (Greeter/Usher)

Week of Oct. 10—Music (adult choir, cantor, Contemporary Music Group)

Week of Oct. 17—Holy Communion

Week of Oct. 24—Art & Environment PLUS Day-of Wedding Coordinator

Judy will manage bulletin and FaceBook promotion with script from ministry leaders. Stewardship to provide card table in Gathering Space, appropriate ministry banner each week, and multi-use brochure for the four weeks. It will have a tear-off page for easy return. Large stewardship banner with message from 1 Peter 4:10 about sharing gifts will hang in Gathering Space for the duration. Ministry leaders are recruiting witness speakers for short message at conclusion of Mass and still deliberating about an overall video for their week. Fr. Jake encourages video as a means to enhance the parish communication strategy and reach more prospects. Ministry leaders will staff the table, train volunteers and incorporate them into service.

5. Other:

- Peg submitted a stewardship article for fall issue of *The Victory Voice*. Annual Report to the parish re: finances and ways this community has lived its mission will be included in this issue.
- Monica will write stewardship prayer intentions for Sept., Oct., and Nov.

6. Special Collection for Bishops' Emergency Disaster Fund. Because of extreme global need, the notion of asking OLV to make a one-time donation from parish funds to this special collection was brought to the meeting. After discussion, consensus agreement to pursue. See attached document for details. Judy and Chuck will present to the Parish Council for approval at its Sept. 28 meeting. Recommendation requests a 2.5% tithe on the \$200K net gain in income realized FYE 6/30/2021. This amount is open to further dialogue with Finance and Parish Councils.

Conversation at the meeting led to ideas about reviewing the parish tithe as currently exists: ¾ of 1% of normal income to be distributed to River Bend Foodbank, Humility Homes & Services, Catholic Relief Services. Total budgeted 2021-2022 fiscal year is \$10,500. Ideas about expanding list of recipients to include pro-life organization(s)—Women's Choice Center specifically named—and/or increasing percent of tithe surfaced. Deferred for further discussion as opportunity for change would best be implemented with 2022-23 budget.

Next meeting will be Monday, October 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the GSMR. Agenda: Handbook of Ministries, Spotlight Ministry Fair, recap of Little Burgundy Books, Giving Tuesday.

Submitted by
Judy Johnson, Secretary

Wellness Committee Meeting of September 23rd, 2021.

Present: Jan King, Char Mc Govern, Maureen Mosse, Julie Kilburg, Lynn Frank, and Denny Prior.

Maureen reported the book sale netted \$910. The balance in the Wellness Committee account now stands at \$1614.64.

The Grief Share program started on September 12th and they have 17 participants.

Our Cozy Corner continues into the month of December.

We will continue blood pressure checks one weekend per month in the church after masses.

Tai Chi will be offered starting in March of next year on Fridays from 12:30 To 2:30 pm.

The Family Bingo night is planned for April 24th, 2022, in the Parish Center.

The Hunger Ministry drop off is scheduled for September 27th from 3 to 5:30 PM in the parish center.

Jan King reviewed the use of our AED machines.

Proposed Wellness Committee Officers for the next year are:

Maureen Mosse -Treasurer,

Lynn Frank and Pat Turner will share the Secretary duties

Jan King will once again serve as the chairperson.

They are looking for someone to be a blood pressure coordinator for the group.

Future meetings.

The 3rd Thursday of the month on the following dates:

November 18th, 2021.

February 17th, 2022.

May 19th, 2022.

August 18th, 2022.

November 17th, 2022.

Coordinator of Youth Ministry & Confirmation

Report to the Pastoral Council

9/28/2021 – 7:00PM

We are disciples of Jesus making faith matter and sharing God's love to make more disciples.

The three goals for youth ministry as described by Renewing the Vision are:

Goal 1: To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.

Goal 2: To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.

Goal 3: To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

What are we doing to accomplish these goals?

Vision for youth ministry.

Core Values:

Living our Faith in Christ

Hearts burning with Love

Accompanying Youth

Treating everyone like Family

Core Purpose:

“Because we belong to God, we want to help youth experience God’s salvation.”

Big, hairy, audacious Goal (BHAG):

“100% of parish youth active in ministry and their faith by 2025.”

Vision for our Future:

“Imagine a parish community which has over 400 young people active in it every year. Feel the vibrant energy of an entire congregation inspired and infused with youthful vitality. Families lead the way, excited to grow in their faith and comfortable with their kids’ questions because they have powerful tools for discipleship. Consider the entire Quad City community and beyond when our youth live like Catholic disciples of Jesus everywhere they go for all their lives; and who know God will be there for them through life’s ups and downs. Think of youth and families knowing Jesus personally and comfortably talking about Him while sharing their faith stories. Dream of the impact on young people who experience parish adults knowing their names, serving as mentors for them, praying for them, and caring for them. Envision a parish that does *more* - for, with, and through young disciples. Think about how welcoming, warm, and inviting it would feel to all of our parishioners and to members of the entire community.”

What will 2021-2022 be like?

The new year brings a lot of hope that we’ll be able to resume more in-person ministry soon. Everyone on the youth ministry team wants to be doing more relational ministry and interacting more with teens – we’re excited at the advent of a vaccine, and the opportunities this may afford for us, though we understand it may not bring many changes quickly.

-This year we want to continue the focus on going out. Freshman care packages have already gone out, Sophomore and Junior packages go out soon, and I’m working on a schedule of other events to go out into the community for and with youth.

Coordinator of Youth Ministry & Confirmation

Report to the Pastoral Council

9/28/2021 – 7:00PM

-Progress is slow on our prayer tree initiative, but we're still moving forward with it. Waiting to hear back from someone to help build it. This year's prayer list, and other materials, are largely ready to go.

-This month we developed T-shirt designs for NCYC at youth night, cooked meals for the poor living at the Catholic worker house, and we hosted our annual Color Wars event the last week of August, in addition to our regular youth nights.

-Natalie's family greatly appreciated the prayer service we held for the sick, as did Rachel Schneider, another local youth fighting cancer. We also received donations which we were able to split between the families.

-We plan to continue offering Alpha for our middle schoolers, especially focusing on 7th and 8th grade. I need to talk to some of our interested families about scheduling for the new year, but I was thinking potentially right after school might work. I'm also talking with youth and families about some other avenues for exploring middle school youth ministry including small groups and after school clubs.

-I am back in schools for visits and lunches with youth to continue reaching them at school. We want to develop a "cheer team" ministry to support OLV youth at events.

"How do we transition back, and to what do we transition, when the Covid-19 situation is over? What will be our new 'normal?'"

-Youth ministry will continue our process of prayer and planning as we begin discerning our strategic planning team, and developing a new leadership structure.

-Right now we've got weekly events at the parish – these will eventually transition to bi-monthly with more off campus activities as we get our feet back under us this year.

-We'll also start offering more events on campus that don't happen in the youth room – things like IGNITE, family game nights, sports competitions, etc.

What about parish college students and young adults?

Local young adult ministers from regional parishes are planning a resumption of formal, in person ministry to young adults this Fall. We have discussed how to take Theology on Tap out of a "maintenance mode" and put it into "mission mode." We ran our thoughts by some local young adults as well to make sure we were on point with them. Here are the results of our discussion and planning.

-Theology on Tap will remain a low barrier to entry starting point for young adults who want to grow in faith, or invite a non-Catholic/lapsed Catholic to an event.

-We are also planning a separate series of meetings for more advanced young adult disciples focused on discipleship skills like faith-sharing, contemplative prayer, understanding the Kerygma, discipleship thresholds, charisms, listening skills, spiritual practices, etc. to help train them as mission oriented disciples. This series kicked off September 23rd.

Coordinator of Youth Ministry & Confirmation

Report to the Pastoral Council

9/28/2021 – 7:00PM

We have developed a facebook presence to engage young adults in ministry and promulgate event information.

We are looking at how to offer some retreat options for emerging adults in this area over the summer. One option includes doing a COR adventure retreat in Utah or Colorado next Spring.