

PARISH AFFAIRS MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2005

In Attendance: Sue Gordon (Stewardship Committee), Mary Staska (SCP/ Women's Guild), Nancy Lynn (Parish Nursing), Mrs. Hall (Parish Affairs), Caroline DiElsi (Parish Affairs).

- Started meeting with an opening prayer.

Stewardship, Kathleen Dongivin: I met with Kathleen Dongivin, Stewardship Administrator for the Archdiocese downtown on Friday. We were on the 13th floor overlooking the City, nice! I have a few original copies of, "Stewardship in the News" with Jack Hasson's article in it entitled, *Mary, Our Model of Christian Stewardship* which we reprinted in the Bulletin with his permission. I also have a few extra copies of the Registration form for Catholic Life Congress 2005 put on by the Archdiocese on Saturday, November 12th at Archbishop Carroll High School in Radnor from 8:30 AM until 4:00 PM if anyone would like one. They do have a Stewardship track of workshops.

Donut Sunday was well attended with many ministries displaying their tri-folds after the 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 Masses in Campion Hall in October. Hospitality Committee did their usual exceptional job, I am extremely grateful to them for so many times that they step forward and cause Saint Eleanor to be such a gracious place to be! Elizabeth Ministry ran a successful craft-making event for the children during Donut Sunday as part of their promotion of their Ministry. The children seemed to gravitate to that corner and enjoyed themselves.

"We Remember" Mass: A beautiful Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, November 2nd, the **"We Remember" Mass**. Father Brownholtz, the Stewardship Committee, Hospitality Committee, Dan Weckerly, Mark Pinto and the Corr Children who were our Altar Servers, all helped make this a very touching and memorable celebration of our parish families' loved ones.

Feast of Christ the King Forty Hours Devotion: We will be celebrating Forty Hours Devotion with Father Kevin Gallagher beginning Sunday, November 20 after the 12:00 Mass. Before the 7:00 PM Mass that same evening, we will repose the Blessed Sacrament in time for Mass and Devotions. On Monday, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed again after the 9:00 AM Mass with Devotions and Benediction at 7:00. Then on Tuesday, the Blessed Sacrament will again be exposed after the 9:00 Mass and we will close at 7:00 PM with an outdoor candlelight Eucharistic Procession and Benediction. Please plan to spend time with Jesus at this time of grace!

Anointing of the Sick Mass The Stewardship and Hospitality Committees will also be assisting at this Mass on December 10th at 11:00. I will contact Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and ask them to invite their Communion Call shut-ins to this Mass. Father Sweeney likes to have more of a light lunch in the Narthex for these parishioners and their drivers/assistants. I will mention the light lunch in my Bulletin Announcement.

Volunteer (Stewardship) Appreciation Mass and Dinner date has been CHANGED. It is now scheduled for January 28th beginning with the 5:15 Mass followed by dinner at about 6:00 in Campion Hall. There was some discussion as to a way that we could reach out further to the Volunteers in the School, Religious Education and CYO for this celebration. This day is for **ALL VOLUNTEERS**, whether serving on the gym floor, in the classroom or school cafeteria, in the church, or bringing the Eucharist to shut-ins, etc. There will be a bigger push to get the word out. Nancy Horning of the Hospitality Committee has offered to take care of communication/publicity for this event through the Bulletin, large Banners for the Narthex and Communication Envelopes, etc. Nancy Hall will be working alongside Nancy Horning for Publicity as well as handling any decorating of Campion Hall and set-up/take-down and Shawn Marie Sloan is also helping us. We met with the School Principal, Molly Paulhamus, Religious Education Director, Anne Hayes, CYO Director, Brian Welsh, and Father Sweeney as a beginning step to get the word out about this being an all-inclusive event. One idea is personal invitations from Father to all Volunteers, and visits to ministries to personally hand out flyers within the next six weeks or so, if anyone would like to help with visits to the ministries, please call Nancy Horning or Nancy Hall.

Greeters: Regina Levine has agreed to become our Greeters Ministry Leader. The Narthex should be a warm, welcoming place that you come into before approaching Mass. Father Sweeney and I believe that the Greeters are a very important Ministry here. We will be encouraging the Greeters to verbally welcome parishioners as they come through the Church doors. The Greeters also distribute the Church Bulletins at the end of Mass.

Photos Taken for ID Badges: Tony will take photos for ID Badges for those working with children in the St. Vincent de Paul Room in the Rectory on Monday, November 21, 2005 between the hours of 4:00 and 7:00 PM. He also said if anyone cannot be there during those hours, photos can also be taken during that day between noon and 4:00 by appointment only. Call Jean Phillips at the Rectory (extension 25) to make an appointment or for more information.

Parish Newsletter: Jack Hasson has agreed to edit a parish newsletter. He would like to see one put out every two months. He will need ministries and the School and Religious Education to keep him updated with a small article and photo of the current goings-on that he might be able to publicize in the Newsletter.

Landings: Bob Vitelli previously reported that Landings has a new team member. They also have someone going through the Landings program presently. They will do the eight-week Landings program for even one person ready to make their way back to the Church. Landings is a great way to begin their journey back!

Divine Mercy: The Youth Group went down to Divine Mercy Parish to help out with a clean-up job for the Pastor, Fr. Michael Davis. They are planning a future trip as well.

Jamaican Outreach: Joe and Louise Smith brought in the picture of a church named St. Martin de Porres Church which donations from St. Eleanor helped build. Father Sweeney has approved that they make a Bulletin Insert out of the Picture and a poster for the Narthex so the parishioners can see how their donations are helping Jamaica. It was also mentioned that little "house" ornaments will be added to the Operation Holiday tree to raise funds to build homes for Jamaicans who were left homeless after the hurricanes.

Bulletin Inserts: I am trying to have Stewardship Inserts in the Bulletin every couple of weeks that will highlight at least two ministries at a time to help the parishioners realize all of the opportunities that are within our parish for ways that they can spend their talents and/or ministries that might be helpful to them in some way. Just trying to get the word out on how generous our parishioners are with their time and how wonderful our people at Saint Eleanor truly are!

Store Certificate Program: As of September, we have netted \$50,000 from the script program. We are just beginning our highest sale quarter and it looks like the program is going well. Families that participate in the tuition rebate program have until February 28th to add to the 2006/07 school year rebate. There are still quite a few families that are not participating in the parish fund raiser.

Women's Guild: The Bazaar/Craft Fair went very well. The weather was great and there were 37 crafters to shop among. A local girl scout troop sold lemonade for Girl Scouts in Louisiana. Perkiomen Valley School district was represented with a table selling items made in their shop class and we were offering St. Eleanor cookbooks at another table. Local businesses were very generous in donations both to the pick-a-prize tables and the kitchen. Santa was jolly and the bake table was busy. Attic treasures used jewelry and the toys/books/games added to the day's shopping till you drop frenzy. The Guild wishes to thank all who contributed with donations, time and talent.

Parish Nurse Ministry: Three more nurses have joined the Parish Nurse Ministry. Each had attended the "Donut Sunday" in October. We will resume the Adult CPR and AED classes in January 2006.

St. Vincent de Paul Society: We held our fall clothing drives on November 5th and 6th. We easily filled the trailer of a semi and had to request a smaller truck to pick up the overflow. All goods collected will go directly to our Central Council and the distributed to SVDP thrift shops and stores for sale, with all proceeds assisting the needy. We are grateful to the religious education program at St. Eleanor's as they helped us recruit 60 Confirmation candidate volunteers. Their volunteer hours are applied towards their overall service hours.

The annual food drive, which also started on November 5th will run the entire month of November. Food collected at Vianney Hall on the weekends before and after each mass. We will use what is collected to stock the food pantry, here in Vianney Hall, so we may assist our clients with food distribution in conjunction with Acme and Redners script cards. We are blessed at St. Eleanor's as we have a caring parish community who are willing to donate to those less fortunate than themselves.

We are currently assisting approximately 20 families and have 15 active members, with two prospective new members. We have just compiled our service numbers for the fiscal year from October 2004 to September 2005 for submission to Central Council and they are as follows:

- The number of people we have helped with "In Kind" goods and services such as food, furniture and clothing total 1,124 in number with a value of \$35,353.
- The total number of people we have helped with personal visits and other personal services totals 2,719.
- The total number of service hours the members of the Society have personally contributed is 1,608.

The Thomas Oxenreider Family asked for monetary donations to the Society in lieu of flowers for his funeral and the Martinko family asked for monetary donations to the Society in lieu of presents for their son William who celebrated his birthday. Additionally, I was contacted by Bill Hall of the CYO with a promise of a donation from the CYO of all of the proceeds from their upcoming dance.

We are so very thankful to these and all of the generous people for supporting our Society in this selfless way.

Next Parish Affairs Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9th at 7:00 in Vianney Hall.