ST. MARY WOMEN'S GUILD *Women Helping Women*

MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 25, 2021

1. Thank you to our past-president Susan Falkner for her years of service to our group, including through the difficult time of Covid
2. Welcome to our new co-chairs, Noreen Kuziak and Pam Carter. Their hope is to build back our membership and to bring activities back into the schedule that are Covid "friendly" and still embrace the purpose of the Guild which is fellowship amongst the women of St. Mary's Church
3. Susan Falkner will stay on in her role of helping with the Giving Tree at Christmas time along with Peggy Day and Kathy Brignac. She will also be in charge of finding guest speakers for our Guild
4. Ann Mikkelson will stay on as Treasure (unless someone else would like that position). Kate Rogers will stay on as Corresponding Secretary. Open positions for Recording Secretary and Liaison for Parish Council are available. Please contact Noreen or Pam if you have questions and would be interested. Carol Storey will be our Spiritual Committee representative.
5. Upcoming plans were discussed as well as ongoing plans for successful activities that we've done in the past
6. We **will not** be collecting dues this year. If there is an activity that costs the Guild money to put on, we will ask for donations to cover costs ($5-$10) if necessary.
7. We currently have $1,291.79 in our budget. We will use this throughout the year to cover costs of speakers and activities as we see just.
8. The balance in the St. Paul Fund ($565) was transferred to the Father Matera Faith Formation Fund and the former St. Paul Fund (established by the Women's Guild) has been closed. Any future funds we raise will be contributed directly to the Faith Formation Fund.
9. Discussion of activities:
    - A weekly group study (either Hybrid or Zoom) something like the Men's Group does now – either reflecting on the upcoming week's scripture or doing a discussion on daily reflections. More info to come
    - Reflection books such as *Give Us This Day*, *Magnificat* or *Mornings with Jesus* to be discussed once a week in a group setting
    - Monthly Rosary meetings (outside to the extent that we can) in different locations
    - "Catholicism 101" – a variety of programs discussing, for example, symbolism of the church; stations of the cross; the advent season; the stained-glass windows, etc.
    - Christmas Ornaments – likely after masses in a spread out way, in our parish center, so that anyone who feels comfortable can participate in a safely
    - Christmas/Toy Drive – TBD - not to interfere with anything the church/school are doing

- 2nd drive in the spring to benefit a women's cause (i.e., Baby Shower that we had a few years ago to benefit Birthright
- Guest Speakers coming in to speak to the group

Noreen and Pam met with Father Steven. He is enthusiastic about the Guild getting active again and is working to make the church facility much more technology friendly so that if we do have speakers there is more than just the option of the church to hold that meeting via our current live stream format. He hopes to get cameras in the parish center as well and is exploring broader uses of all means of technology to better our experiences.

Our Kick Off meeting for this year:

Please join us for reciting of the Rosary on September 13th on the Flower Bridge, Drake Hill Rd., Simsbury. We will do this twice on that date at 9:00 am and 6:00 pm. This will allow for individual scheduling preference. Bring a chair if you'd like and your rosary beads. Bring a friend too! Rain date – Wednesday, September 15th.

We also ask that you bring an old flannel shirt, unwanted scarf, dishtowel or scrap of fabric, for us to prepare October's activity! Any donations are helpful. We will be making Scarecrow Wreaths in October, date TBD. Look for an announcement in the Sunday Bulletin soon.

Please contact us with any questions or comments:

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