

4/22/25 Mary, Mother of the Church Parish Council Meeting Minutes

“...to be a Christ-centered radiant light and bold witness to those whose lives we touch...”

In attendance: Aimee Barrett, Andria Benmuvhar, Mark Benmuvhar Rich Blackford, Wendy Franklin, Mark Fuller, Sandy Hacker, Deacon Randy Howe, Mark Inman, Susan Krieger, Vincenzo LiCavoli, Ann Madden, Marian McCord, Mary Ann McWilliams, Father Steve Robeson, Lisa Roseland, Linda Telthorst, Cindy Yamnitz

Absent:, Cheryl Degenhart, Sebastian Smith

Opening Prayer – Marian McCord

March Meeting Minutes: Approved

Follow-Up Discussion:

Welcome New Board Members: Mark Benmuvhar, Susan Krieger, Enzo LiCavoli, Ann Madden, Linda Telthorst

After discernment, the following positions were accepted:

- Mark Benmuvhar: Vice Chair
- Susan Krieger: Christian Service
- Enzo LiCavoli: Youth Representative
- Ann Madden: Liturgy
- Linda Telthorst: Secretary

2025-2026 Budget Discussion – Randy Howe & Mark Inman

Budgets are sent to commission leads in March and are sent back to Ann in April. They are brought to the Parish Council for review and then sent to approval in May.

Ad/Fin met to discuss the budget. Not much changed from the previous year. The expenses have remained roughly the same. The contributions via online and envelopes are doing well. Donations and increased giving have helped with the deficit, however the increases were not as anticipated. We will be showing a loss with this budget of approximately \$36,000 this coming year. This is reduced from the previous year's losses. We have adjusted like hiring a nurse rather than contracting out in order to reduce expenses. The hire of a DRE and cost of living increases are built into the budget. Many of our expenses are from payroll and assessments from the diocese, which are not negotiable. These are based on our total revenue. Expenses from commissions are minimal. Historically we come in with expenses lower than what is budgeted. We have a cash reserve. The concern is the income from parishioners, which is variable. Looking to educate population on other ways to donate.

Council Members raised questions about various line items within the budget concerning travel, contributions to neighboring schools. Request made to change the language concerning St. Simon which no longer has a school. If members have questions, they can check with Ann about the origins/background of budget items.

DRE Position – Fr. Steve

- A search committee has been gathered to replace Cheryl Degenhart.
- Posted on April 1 in the Southern Vicariate HR.
- Called St. Simon about possible candidates.
- Interviews have started.
- Parish Council encouraged to keep this ministry in their prayers.

Fish Fries – Rich Blackford

- 451 adult/children dinners at the first Friday (about a third were takeout)
- 490 adult/children dinners at the second
 - We raised the adult prices a dollar
 - Total raised \$4849.25 profit
 - \$14615 total brought in with 9,765.75 expenses
- Bought a new fryer \$1500; the expense will not be there next year.
- Lost \$100 to credit card fees. We have to use the archdiocese machine.
- Raised budget for next year because of the cost of food.
- Looking at possibly doing three again in the future.
- Raffle baskets encourage people to stick around.

Social (Rich Blackford): August Social Event looking to have dinners (barbecue, chicken) at the August social event. This could be a good fundraiser. Question was raised about County health requirements. We have to have a certified chef present to sell food. You also need to have a permit to sell the food, which is easier to get.

New Business:

Fall Fundraiser – Wendy Franklin

- Sue Krieger referenced the dinner/dances we previously had as a fundraiser
- Rich talked about the puzzle night growing to a fundraiser.
- Wendy encouraged Parish Council to think about other options for fundraising activities.
- Some ideas proposed include golf tournaments, pickleball tournaments, horse races, mouse races, and trivia nights.

Cell Phone Problem – Wendy Franklin

Discussion about means to remind people to turn off their cell phones or silence them during mass. Announcements could be more intentional to mitigate the interruptions. The lector will use their phone to demonstrate and draw attention to the issue.

Discussion extended to other noise in the church including the vestibule.

Commission Reports:

Any Questions/Comments?

Wendy Franklin: Reminder to send commission reports the weekend prior to the Parish Council meeting

Missionary Discipleship (Mary Ann McWilliams): Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast this Saturday, 4/26. There is a St. Vincent DePaul conference the same day. Only 50 people have signed up so far. There is room for 150. We had 81 last year.

Mary Ann is requesting additions to the welcome bags to advertise commissions.

There are new signs directing people around the parish campus to know where rooms/restrooms to allow people to navigate the campus better. We will have another sign welcoming people to the church in the north driveway. 12-15 signs are in the process of being installed.

Vice Chair Comments – Marian McCord

The current best day for the Parish Council Retreat is October 25, which is a Saturday. It will be for a half day gathering probably off-site.

Chair Comments – Wendy Franklin (nothing to add)

Pastor Comments – Father Steve Robeson (nothing to add)

What's the Buzz in the Neighborhood?

- We still hear that we are a very welcoming parish.
- Nametag changes suggested for using magnets, not just lanyards. MaryAnn is running low on lanyards. Questioned if we could have a lanyard board in the vestibule.

Closing Prayer – Marian McCord

Next Meeting

5/27/25 - 7 - 9 pm in Rooms 1 & 2

Opening/Closing Prayer – Sebastian Smith

Administration and Finance Commission April Report
04-22-2025

- Major Projects –
 - All major projects for this fiscal year have been completed.
 - For now, only the parking lot work is planned for the coming year.
 - There are a few new initiatives that are still in the information gathering stage that may roll around in the coming year, and executed in FY 27 or 28.
- Financials
 - As the end of March, we have a \$9,264 operating loss (an improvement over February's \$17,704 loss).
 - Cash position still strong, with over \$600k in unrestricted funds, and over \$400,000 in restricted funds.
- Budget
 - 2025 – 2026 budget was submitted and approved by Fr Steve, and Adfin. Will be presenting budget to Parish council for approval.

Submitted to the Parish Council by Mark Inman, Administration and Finance Commission Chair

Peace and Justice Committee

- April P&J meeting highlights:
 - Social Justice Collaborative: report presented by Mary Factor. “Southside” has been dropped from the official name. The group currently has 25 members representing 11+ parishes. A new subcommittee on advocacy has been established. There are many activities and opportunities for involvement, contact Mary Factor for more information.
 - Subcommittee reports
 - Love thy Neighbor - Libby Long
 - ❖ Next meeting is scheduled for April 25. Using the synodal process the group will focus on finalizing the mission statement to reflect its focus on education and to strategize on first steps in the parish, beginning with a presentation to the Parish Council.
 - Season of Creation - Alice Weis
 - ❖ A summary of the presentation “Plastic Pollution Crisis: A Threat to Ecosystems and Beyond” was given and will be emailed to all members. Is it possible to offer this presentation at MMOC?
 - ❖ Planning to apply for Laudato Si Micro Grant. If chosen, grant money may be used towards water bottle filling station(s) on the MMOC campus.
 - ❖ Laudato Si Speaker Series featuring Jean Ponzi of the Missouri Botanical Garden will be April 30, 2025 at 6:30pm, St. Cletus-Zumbehl Rd.
 - Culture of Life - Jeanne Schepers
 - ❖ Subcommittee will investigate having Joyce Jones from Archdiocesan Office of Racial Harmony as a guest speaker at MMOC. Could this be a joint event with Sacred Heart-Valley Park?
 - The Housing Partnership Award for Volunteers is on April 25. Becky Quick will attend to accept on behalf of the Peace & Justice Ministry Season of Creation team for its day of community projects, Sept. 2024.
 - Social Action Leaders Meeting will be held at 6:30pm, Thursday, April 24, at the Rigali Center featuring a panel discussion and networking. Topic: Creative, Effective Advocacy. All are invited to attend. Contact Kim Blackford for more information.
 - Next meeting: May 13, 6:30pm

Respect Life Committee

- The Respect Life Baby Shower took place on the weekend of March 29/30 and April 5/6. **Thank you** to the parish for their generous support of our Baby Shower for Birthright of Hillsboro! 247 items were donated including packages of diapers and wipes, baby shampoo and lotion, blankets, clothes, crocheted hats and more. Monetary donations totaled \$776.00.
- Members of the Respect Life committee went to pray outside of Planned Parenthood on 4/15 (4 went) and on 4/16 (3 went).
- Upcoming Events include:
 - **Thursday, May 1: Midwest March for Life (Jefferson City)**, starting at 9 a.m. on the state capitol grounds; event details and more can be found here: <https://midwestmarchforlife.com/>
 - **Saturday, May 3:** Join the Archdiocese of St. Louis Respect Life Apostolate in peaceful prayer and witness at the **First Saturday Rosary for Life** We will meet at 9:30 a.m. on the sidewalk outside the abortion facility at 4251 Forest Park Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108, for a pro-life Rosary

with meditations and other prayers until approximately 10:15 a.m. led by our chaplain Fr. Mark Madden. The Salesian Sisters of Mary Immaculate also welcome us to their home at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Convent next door for continued prayer and fellowship afterwards.

- Next Respect Life meeting is scheduled May 14 at 7 pm in the annex.

Christian Formation Core Team Updates

Mark Inman presented on the program - Just a guy in the Pew - <https://justaguyinthepew.com/>.

MMOC received a \$1000 grant from the Campaign for Human Development for a project that Rose Wiethop proposed called “Anchored in Faith: Preserving and Sharing Stories of God’s love”.

- Presented Rose with the Grant Award Certificate
- Rose – gave an overview of the project
 - Plan is to start in June and finish in September

Completed Adult Formation

- Cornerstone –September through March
- Lent - Gospel of John Bible Study, 12 signed up
- Just Faith Lenten Program – Sowing Peace
 - 6 weeks – 1 hour time frame, 2 offerings – 29 total signed up.
- Cornerstone – ended in late March
- Movie “Romero ”
 - Sunday, March 23 @ 3:00, Followed by discussion
 - 25 attended
- Contemplative Group - workshops on Welcoming Prayer / Introduction to Contemplative Prayer – Dance of Love, Living the Trinitarian Dance
 - Held March 29, 11 attended
- Run on Faith – March 30
 - Approximately 30 attended
- Jesus Christ Superstar – movie, Palm Sunday
- Sacramental Faith Support Ministry
 - Concluded on 3/10/2025
 - Reasonable attendance each week – approximately 2/3 families attended each week
 - Randy – has sent survey to parents and is awaiting response
 - Randy – had met with facilitators for feedback
- Alpha
 - Kathleen and Bob Balassi ran the Alpha series at their home
 - Target age group is 19-30
 - Kathleen– feedback
 - Videos are updated and culturally relevant
 - Holy Spirit focused
 - Participants – 8 consistent, others came when schedule allowed.
 - Positive experience for all, progression in faith grew
 - What is next?
 - Do again in Fall?
 - This group would like to keep meeting...possibly meet 1x/month over summer?
 - Looking for good young adult bible study?

Upcoming Scheduled Adult Formation

- Contemplative Group - workshop on Welcoming Prayer / Introduction to Contemplative Prayer – Dance of Love, Living the Trinitarian Dance
 - Part 2 - Scheduled for Saturday, 5/3
- Contemplative Group is also offering:
 - Fr Mark Dean, OMI will speak on Visio Divina on 6/10/25 at 6:30
- Anchored in Faith: Preserving and Sharing Stories of God's love – summer 2025

Adult Alpha/Parish Rescue Project

- on hold until after Rescue Project with sacramental families
- Looking to run Rescue Project in Fall for parish ?

Youth Alpha Series

- On hold until Clare attends Alpha conference this summer and we can include MMOC youth group
- Have 20 confirmation candidates this year....would be nice to link them to Youth Alpha right away but, if no planning is done until after Clare attends Alpha conference, it could be a long wait before we get Youth Alpha started.

Divine Mercy Novena and Divine Mercy Sunday – April 19 – April 27

- Living Our Faith flocknote for April will include info on Divine Mercy
- Divine Mercy Chaplet will be said on Divine Mercy Sunday between the 9:00 and 11:00 mass
- Kathleen Balassi and Rose Wiethop will check into timing and the possibly singing the chaplet

Divine Renovation Book Discussion / Five Steps to Deeper Discipleship

- Had some passionate discussion about content of book and challenges we face.
- Mark Benmuvhar volunteered to lead group discussion on the book. Please Contact Mark if you can be available for this.
- Ended with prayer for God to open hearts and an inflow of the Holy Spirit in our Parish.

OCIA

- Ed had not gotten any new inquiries for OCIA.

Submitted to the Parish Council by Cindy Yamnitz, Christian Formation Commission Chair

Please Note: This is a compilation of Notes/Updates/Reports by Members of the Commission for this month. There was no meeting in April.

*The Mission of Mary, Mother of the Church, as a Christ-centered community, is to be a **radiant light** in the world and a **bold witness** to those whose lives we touch, inspiring them to love God and to love one another, as God loves us.*

Members: Susan Buerkle (Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl, Legislative Action, Offering Letters for *Bread for the World*), Mary Factor (Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU), Lori Fick (Summer Food Drive, Christmas Food Drive, Comfort Meals), Nancy Forsythe (Christmas Gift Drive), Mark Fuller (Commission Chair, The James II Project), Mike Jarvis (Sandwich Shoppes), Becky McDonnell (Kids/Family Books for St. Anthony of Padua Food Pantry), Mary Lou Peters (Member), Jeanne Schepers (Peace & Justice), Leicha Schepers (St. Vincent de Paul Society), Jeanette Sloan (Funeral Luncheons), Patricia Tobin (Bridge Bread), Sharon Van Ronzelen (Tithing).

Updates/Reports:

Mark Fuller (*The James II Project*): Report: In addition to helping with showers & meals on the Third Thursday of the month, a few of us have volunteered to help with showers on the months that have Fifth Thursdays. Holy Family Parish will do the meals on those days. Mark advertised in the parish bulletin for a few more volunteers. 8 parishioners have volunteered. That gives us 15 volunteers in total to date.

Becky McDonnell (Kids/Family Books for St. Anthony Food Pantry): Report:

The book collection program for St. Anthony of Padua is suspended for now. There is no longer a good place to distribute the books during pantry, plus, they are amidst a remodel. I am reaching out to some other agencies to see if they would like some of the books.

I am currently busy with a number of other committees at church, and would like to take a sabbatical from the Christian Service Commission.

The PSR parents and students had a family night on March 24, 'Stone Soup Night'. We made soup for the food pantry. The frozen soup was distributed on the following Wednesday. We made enough to feed 35 families. The parents and students were very complimentary of the event.

Leicha Schepers (St. Vincent de Paul Society): Report:

Here is the first quarter of 2025 report of SVDP. We will have this information also in the April 27th bulletin. During the past 3 months SVDP members contributed 1,163 hours of service and logged 2,362 miles making 29 home visits and recycling scrap metal.

Because of your contribution in dollars, food and scrap metal, we have been able to assist 116 of our neighbors with the following expenses:

Utilities:	\$3,519
Housing:	\$18,105
Medical:	\$250
Car payment:	\$171
Food/Gas Gift Cards:	\$925
Food:	\$572 (food pantry items delivered at \$2 per item)
Twinning:	\$2,350

We were able to give \$635 in voucher credit towards SVDP Thrift Stores to our neighbors in need. We also supplied them with 10 appliances from our metal collections. Thank you from all of us for being the face of Christ to our Neighbors in Need.

Jeanette Sloan (Funeral Luncheons): Report: (taken from the Parish Bulletin): Jeanette wrote:
Once again it is time to update the list of helpers for our funeral luncheons. We are so blessed to have so many of you help with serving our families lunch in their time of need. If you can help by either preparing a dish or serving at these luncheons, please forward the number where you can most easily be reached to Jeanette Sloan at 314-440-9514 or Im2busy2sew@aol.com. Please note, even if you have signed up in the past, we need you to contact us to remain on the list. Your help is truly appreciated!

Sharon Van Ronzelen (Tithing): Report: **Tithing**

March 2025 – 5 Sundays - \$1083 per agency

Feed My People—Provides emergency food and other social services to the poor in South County.

Rebuilding Together—Purchases materials to repair homes of the elderly, the disabled, and low-income homeowners who cannot afford the repairs on their own.

Chads Coalition—Raises awareness and provides education and counseling to identify and prevent depression and suicide, saving young lives in the St. Louis area.

St. Louis University Prison Program—A college education prison program aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty and recidivism. This Associate of Arts Degree is available to both the incarcerated and staff.

Jefferson County Pregnancy Center—Provides free services to women in crisis pregnancies including pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, STD testing/treatment, parenting classes, diapers, formula, clothing, counseling, and post abortion healing.

Marion Middle School—All girls private middle school serving urban adolescent youth in the St. Louis in a faith-based environment.

Kwasha Kids—Provides free education for all students at the Kwasha Molya Community School in Zambia, Africa, including a school lunch program to promote good health habits and enhance each student's ability to learn.

Total Tithe for February \$7581

Reminders:

--Next Commission Meeting: (3rd Thursday) May 15, 2025 @ 2:30pm (in-person meeting)

Submitted to the Parish Council by Mark Fuller, Christian Service Commission Chair

Faith Formation

April 22, 2025

- The four children in OCIA for Children will receive their First Communion on Easter Sunday at 11:00 Mass.
- The next Family Mass is May 18 at 9:00 Mass.
- First Communion Retreat was Saturday, April 5 9:30-1:00. At least one parent attended with their child. The children made bread, watched a video on how communion wafers are made, had an in-depth tour of the church, and made their First Communion Banners. Lunch was provided at the end of the retreat. It was a fun morning for all.
- No PSR on April 21, Easter Monday.
- On April 28, PSR will practice in church for the May Crowning ceremony the following week.
- April 29 is the First Communion Rehearsal and pictures in church at 6:30.
- First Communion is Sunday, May 4 at 11:00 Mass. Seven children will be making their First Communion.
- May 5 is the last night of PSR. We will end the PSR year with a May Crowning ceremony. The second and eighth graders will participate in a special way during the ceremony. The parish is welcome to come and participate.
- Confirmation Rehearsal for the confirmandi and their sponsors is Monday, May 12 at 7:00 pm in church. The confirmation celebration is Wednesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm. Archbishop Rozanski will be presiding.
- VBS update: 28 campers registered; 13 volunteers registered. The Station Leader meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21 and a Student Volunteer meeting is scheduled for July 9.

Submitted to the Parish Council by Cheryl Degenhart, Director of Faith Formation

HMC Meeting April 15, 2025 – 7:00pm

Attendance: Aimee Barrett, Kevin Brady, Amy Kelemen, Kathleen Kidwell, and Mary Scalzo

Approval of March meeting minutes

New Business

- 2025 Parish Guide Book & Directory updates – need to review HMC info in the front of the 2024 Directory to make sure everything is accurate before the 2025 printing.

Standing Agenda Items (new info in *italics*)

- Parish Community Forum/Morning of Renewal continued discussion
 - How can HMC further address some of the priorities, weaknesses, etc. that were identified?
 - Aimee talked to Cheryl about the possibility of using a PSR night in the fall for a follow-up presentation from Tom Caffrey. She is open to the idea and willing to help with scheduling.
 - *Since Cheryl is retiring at the end of June, we will probably need to reach out to the new Director of Faith Formation once the position is filled.*
 - Other ideas for getting important health info to parishioners now that the Update has ceased? Events? Displays? How can we help Michele communicate this information?
 - *Discussion of possibly hosting a Health Fair summer 2026*
 - Next meeting we can review our commission's top priorities from the Morning of Renewal.
 - What have we already accomplished?
 - Is there one need, topic, weakness, etc. that we can focus on next?

Other News/Information from Members?

- Updates on fish fries, raffle baskets/gift cards?
 - Both fish fries were well attended. More attended 2nd event. Weather may have impacted totals for first event.
 - Fish fries raffle baskets/gift cards, lotto tickets total = \$1,845. Money goes into parish general fund.

Parish Nurse

- Michele is away April 15th – 29th and will return on the 30th
- CPR/AED/First Aid class – Thursday, May 1st from 3 to 7pm in the parish hall. So far, eight are signed up and there are four additional slots.
- Next Blood Drive Tuesday, May 20th (the same day as our next HMC meeting). 17 are signed up so far. **Need additional volunteers to help during the blood drive.** Michele plans to serve salsa nachos since it's baseball season. Kevin Brady is coordinating the drive. Looking for ways to advertise and sign up more donors.
- Good Samaritan Driver Ministry – 8 rides have been given to one rider, which are always on Fridays. Another parishioner has asked for rides. We have accommodated him one time so far.
- Late spring/summer education and/or fitness offerings – Michele emailed Sheila Treptow who has led line dancing for us in the past. She has not responded yet. Hoping she can lead us this summer for another line dancing evening event.
- Michele is awaiting response from Tom Caffery in regard to a possible fall mental health presentation. She texted him about three weeks ago.
- Parishioner John Giljum has restocked all of the first aid bags.

Closing Comments

- **Next Meeting** – Tuesday, May 20th, 7:00pm (after Blood Drive)

Submitted to the Parish Council by Aimee Barrett, Health Ministry Commission Chair

Liturgy Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2025

Attendance: Sandy Hacker, Nate Jacson, Pat Tobin, Sue Fuchs, Carol Drury, Deacon Randy How, Mary Ann Howe, Paul Schulte, Nancy Muehl

Opening Prayer: Sandy Hacker
Meeting Minutes from March approved.

Sandy Hacker:

Our Missionary Discipleship Commission has asked if we would like to add a memento to the Welcome Bag that are extended to new parishioners. Possibly a small container of Holy Water? We will plan to discuss more at our May meeting.

Divine Mercy (Octave of Easter, April 27, 2025) Rose Weithop will be sending a Divine Mercy Novena via Flocknote 9 days prior to Divine Mercy Sunday. Sandy will contact Rose on details. The plan is still to have the Divine Mercy Chaplet prayed between 9 & 11am Masses. Fr Steve would also be available for Reconciliation after all Masses that weekend.

Focus this meeting: Palm Sunday thru Easter

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Cheryl Degenhart

- Cheryl will be retiring.
- Cheryl is currently preparing 4 older children for their First Communion. They will be receiving this Sacrament at 11:00 Mass on Easter.
- There will be no Children's Liturgy at 9:00 Mass on Palm Sunday (4/13) and Easter Sunday (4/20)
- First Communion for our 7 second graders will be Sunday, May 4 @ 11:00 Mass
- Confirmation will be Wed. May 14 @ 7pm with Archbishop Rozanski celebrating.

Adoration: no report

Mass Monitors: no report

Lectors: No lectors have been chosen for the Readings on Easter Vigil~ Deacon Randy will select readers.
Readers for Good Friday?

Liturgy: Nate Jackson: Will be putting together worship aids for each of the Masses and Tridium

Choirs: Holy Thursday: Traditional & Contemporary

Good Friday: Traditional & Contemporary

Easter Vigil: Traditional

Easter Sunday: 9:00-Traditional, 11:00- Contemporary

Planning Team: Pat Tobin

Provided handouts that include notes from Palm Sunday thru Easter Vigil and and list of Volunteers—notes attached to review

Practice for Holy Week/Easter Vigil: Tuesday, April 15

Holy Thurs: 6:30

Good Friday: 7:00

Easter Vigil: 7:30 (may be able to start earlier if Good Friday does not take as long)

Art & Environment: Pat Tobin & Carol Drury

Discussed in-depth plans for Palm Sunday thru Easter Vigil--- notes attached to review

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Muehl

Submitted to the Parish Council by Sandy Hacker, Liturgy Commission Chair

MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION

April 2025

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE –

- The committee is still recruiting for new members.
- The Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast is Saturday, April 26th, starting with Mass at 8:30 am, followed by a continental breakfast. Reservations are coming in slowly, but we will continue to reach out to the parishioners in several ways. Bruce will email each person who has signed up to remind them of the event.
- Stewardship weekend is September 27-28, 2025. Mary Ann presented the proposal to the Parish Council for all commissions to take an active part in the weekend. The Parish Council was completely supportive of this idea. Rich Blackford, Social Chair, said he would partner with the Missionary Discipleship Commission to put an event together.
- YTD new parishioners total is now 12. There are several still deciding whether to join or not.
- At the March Parish Council meeting, Mary Ann suggested that each Commission Chair put something in the Welcome Bags from their commission. At the last E-Team Squared meeting one parish took off with our Welcome Bag idea and they have committees putting things like rosaries, little bottles of holy water, and flyers of events in the bags.
- We continue to focus on new homeowners in our area, sending them a Welcome to our Community card.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP –

- The Contemplative Group is hosting "Going Deeper" Reflection Days on May 3rd from 10-11:30a in Classrooms 1 & 2. Deacon Bob Smerek will address the topic of Living the Trinitarian Life – The Divine Dance.
- This committee will be offering special quarterly programs. The dates are: March 18, June 17, September 16, and December 9. All would be at 6:30 pm in church.
- Fr. Mark Dean, OMI, will speak on Visio Divina on June 10th at 6:30 pm. Mary Ann offered to help pay for the \$100 stipend from the Missionary Discipleship budget.
- Margaret Poirrier is facilitating the Contemplative Prayer Group on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am in one of the classrooms.

PRAYER GROUPS – All our prayer groups are going strong, and some are growing in attendance.

JONAH TEAM – This group is doing well. Getting good participation.

E-TEAM SQUARED –

Mary Ann compiled the results of the Hospitality/Campus Surveys that she handed out several months ago to numerous parishioners, both new and old. The participants were asked to answer the questions as if they were visitors to our parish. The survey was broken down into several categories, one of which was our signage. Across the board, participants felt the signage within the whole campus lacked directions to things like the parish office, parish hall, the meeting rooms and the restrooms. Mary Ann met with Ann and together they put together a plan based on the needs pointed out in the survey. Signs have been purchased for inside and outside. Signs in the parking lot directing people to the office, hall and meeting rooms. A sign was purchased to put at the north entrance driveway welcoming people to Mary, Mother of the Church. Signs were purchased to be hung from the ceiling showing where restrooms are – in church, in the Parish Hall, and down by the classrooms. Pedestal signs were purchased to put down by the elevator directing people to these places. Ann stated that if we wanted something more esthetic, that would need to be designed and put into the 2026-27 fiscal year budget. We think we have met all the needs from that section of the survey. More to come later.

Submitted to the Parish Council by Mary Ann McWilliams, Missionary Discipleship Commission Chair