**ARCADIA DEANERY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN -----January 2024**

**Father George T. Thayikuzhithottu, Spiritual Adviser**

**Janet Amundson, President**

Arcadia Deanery Council of Catholic Women’s Spirituality Gathering was on October 21 at St. Boniface

Parish, Waumandee with 52 ladies present. This was our first Saturday morning gathering which worked out well. Guest Speaker, Gretta Kraus from St. Clare Health Mission informed us of the origin of St. Clare Health Mission plus how they provide for the homeless and uninsured individuals in Western Wisconsin. She drove the mobile unit, so ladies got a first- hand view. In support $420 was collected.

**St. Mary’s, Galesville**

**Rebecca Harris, PCCW President**

St. Mary’s joined St. Bartholomew’s in a joint candy/cookie sale on December 2. This event is hosted in the hall of St. Bartholomew’s and is true fellowship with our ladies from both churches working together.

Our PCCW hosted an Advent collection for the Galesville Elementary School. We collected hats and mittens for students who do not have them, or they get wet; snacks for their milk breaks for students who do not bring their own. We collected $270 for the school that will be used for field trips for those students who cannot pay for these field trips. We also provided snacks and beverages after the Blessing of the Madonna Window that was added to the front of our church. This stained- glass window was donated and is lit at night. It is a wonderful addition to our church and fitting for our patron saint.

**Holy Family, Arcadia**

**Toni Johnson, PCCW President**

**October**

We had decided to again donate for Christmas to area nursing homes; each year we donate to TCHCC, but now we will also donate to the other four nursing homes in Trempealeau County (alphabetically on a rotating basis). We donated to Grandview Care Center (Blair) this year. This month we encouraged our members to bring donations for the “Box of Joy”. Project. We hope more deanery PCCWs will adopt the “Box of Joy” project next year. For the Diocesan “Share Shop” at Tomah, we prepared a poster (entitled “Reaching Out”) sharing our local, diocesan, and worldwide outreach. We also planned for our membership drive and our Holiday Bazaar.

**November**

Following the Memorial Mass on Nov. 2nd , PCCW hosted fellowship with 50 people attending the gathering. We held a pre-order coffeecake bake on Nov. 14th, making 155 coffeecakes. November is our “membership month”. Students at HFCS stuffed about 350 envelopes for us. We handed out at our November meeting, at one set of weekend Masses, and mailed the remaining ones. We established a

Committee to report at our February meeting a “first read” slate of candidates for officers for 24-26

**December**

We enjoyed the food and fun of our annual Christmas Party on Dec. 4th. Fr. Kyle played his guitar for us; we enjoyed games, great food and too much wine! We take this opportunity to remember the needy; ladies brought donations for the OLPH Emergency Food Pantry and “warm things” for Catholic Charities.

Because Catholic Charities did not return our phone calls, the “warm things” were donated to St. Patrick’s Parish in Onalaska. We provided gifts to the parish staff of HFCS Scrip certificates. Our “Holiday

Bazaar” was held on Dec. 8th. We had a wonderful crew of workers, including some 8th graders from HFCS who assisted in the dining room and as carriers for customers who bought many items at the bake sale and/or the Christmas decoration sale. This was also the month for sending mail (Christmas Cards) to our 12 seminarians; we hold them in our prayers and want to connect with them through their seminary years.

**Ongoing Projects**

Each of our meetings ends with a short “meditation” provided by a volunteer.; this is an opportunity to reflect on some aspect of our lives, carrying forth a thought for the day. We sponsor a gift card drawing at each blood drive (November this quarter). We reach out to the homebound with cards and small gift bags when appropriate; our “Fellowship Chair” sends cards to members who are hospitalized, at the passing of a loved one, and for special occasions (e. i. 50th wedding anniversaries). We sponsor flowers for the Marian altar or for outside decorating, when in season. We have continued to assist at funerals of PCCW members…. leading the Rosary, lecturing at the funeral Mass, serving as gift bearers, and standing as an Honor Guard. Ladies also help the caterer with dining room duties for funeral lunches of any parishioner (not just deceased PCCW members). All of these little acts provide opportunities for us to serve our parish and people around us.

**Immaculate Conception Church, Fountain City**

**Rita Bechly, PCCW President**

We have continued with Prayer Chain and sending cards of sympathy, congratulations, birthday, and

anniversary and purchasing of altar breads. Staffed Parish Food Shelf which was open not only to members of our Parish but our whole community. Made available to those who wanted, copies of Matthew Kelly’s book “Holy Moments”. Donut Sunday and Fellowship. Collecting Glasses for Casa Hogar. Weekly update of bulletin board with inspirational messages/prayers and upcoming PCCW events. Quilting Group continues to make quilts for special occasions like baptism, confirmation, and raffle prizes.

In October participated in the Pro-Life Rally in Winona and Rosary Rally was held in our Fountain City Park. One of our members attended the Share Shop in Tomah and showed off the quilt made by our quilting ladies depicting all 3 parishes through pictures that were incorporated into the quilt. Dedicated October’s rosary to Our Lady of the Rosary. Donated $400 to the purchase of a new water heater for the church basement. November, we dedicated rosary to The Holy Souls in Purgatory. Purchased a storage cabinet for the church basement. On December 8th, we supplied a light lunch after mass to honor our namesake the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Participated in the County Angel Tree as well as supplying some Movie and Game Night Baskets to them. Gave our CCD class a candy cane and card describing the Candy Cane Story. Also supplied these candy cane cards to our catholic school and to parishioners after our Christmas Eve mass. Gave our priest, deacon, and parish secretary gift cards in appreciation of all their hard work they do for us.

**St. Bartholomew, Trempealeau**

**Kay Richtman, PCCW President**

We had a busy successful Fall. We changed our Fall Festival back to a one-day event with chicken and meatball dinner. As always was an enormous success…….as was our Christmas Cookie and Candy Sale (joint venture with St. Mary).

The “Helping Hands” scholarship for a deserving senior from St. Bartholomew was rolled out to the parish this Fall. Letters of explanation and criteria were sent to the parishioners.

Our Christmas charity was for a needy family from the Trempealeau area. A Sharing Tree with wish list tags was placed in the vestibule of the church. The response was tremendous as usual. Every tag was removed from the tree and returned with a gift. We worked with the guidance counselor from the elementary school to get the information and to also pass on the gifts to the anonymous family. Gifts and the makings for a complete Christmas dinner were given to the family on December 19th.

We also showed support to the Trempealeau County Healthcare Center. Many gifts for the residents were delivered to Whitehall the first week of December.

Going Forward---2024 Our fist venture/fu

**Richland Center Deanery Reports**

January 2024

by Candace V. McGrath, Treasurer

**St. Anthony’s – Cazenovia**

President Patti Braun

I attended the Deanery meeting in Wonewoc. St. Anthony's had not been listed on the churches attending. We are still supporting the church and school for upkeep and supplies as needed. There are members who have been cleaning the church on a regular basis each month.

We have had five masses prayed for each member from the Altar Society who have passed away this year. May God bless their souls.

**St. Mary’s – Viroqua**

President Joyce Humfeld

October, we held a very successful fall turkey dinner with a total of over 750 meals being served, offering both carry out and dine in. Our parish hosted the Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner along with other local parishes, several parishioners worked alongside community members of other faiths to prepare and serve this meal

* Donuts, fruit, and juice is served to the religious ed families the first Sunday of the month
* Fellowship for everyone is served after the masses on the third weekend of the month
* We have Bible study groups that have formed, one meeting on Thursday mornings, and another on Thursday evenings
* Our PCCW donated to the local Toys for Tots at Christmastime
* Cards, plants, and cookies were given to the homebound for Christmas
* The PCCW provided candy and "Viroqua Buck" as a Christmas gift to the mass servers
* Our parish held a Christmas Day meal for those from our parishes that would otherwise be alone at Christmas
* We continue to support two seminarians with a monthly monetary gift
* Our PCCW is helping with some necessary updates to our kitchen, as our faucets are being replaced and other needed repairs
* Our parish will be preparing and serving the community meal served monthly on January 22.
* We will be having our next meeting on January 17th to plan our budget and to plan our activities for the year.  The PCCW will be preparing a simple meal for the marriage

**St. Mary’s – Richland Center**

President Alisa Weiss

For Christmas we collected Angel Gifts for people in nursing homes. We donated $300 to Pine Valley for haircuts. On Ash Wednesday, which is also St. Valentine’s Day, our PCCW is having a soup and sandwich after the evening mass with the Free Will Offering going to the Food Pantry. We also donated $1,000 to the Family Thrift Shop which was closed for remodeling.

**Sacred Heart – Lone Rock**

President Marilyn Olson

We had a Christmas potluck and a little gift exchange. Father treated us to his violin playing. Nothing is being planned right now for near future.

**St. Jerome – Wonewoc**

President Sondra Gorius

St. Jerome hosted the Richland Deanery Meeting in October. It was a wonderful gathering with representation from every parish in the deanery. The meal was very good and Fr. Steve Kachel gave us some great food for thought.

December 5th, the Altar Society hosted the Italian Night Dinner, an annual event for us. This year we joined with the Knights of Columbus to fundraise for a parish member and Knight, Greg Gnirk and his wife. Greg is fighting throat cancer. The turnout was wonderful from both parishes, the community and the Gnirk family. Greg and Brenda were also able to join us at the event.

We decorate the Church this time of year with parish members and care for flowers indoors to keep everything beautiful for Our Lord. The Altar Society hosts donuts on the first Sunday of every month, we clean the Church, and cover an adoration time at St. Theresa’s Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel.

I think it is in March that we will have a Soup and Sandwich meal after the 8am Mass with a free will offering.

**St. Aloysius – Hillsboro**

President Karen Urban

We said a rosary at the visitation of each of our ladies who passed away. We also sent sympathy card to each of the families indicating that we would be having a mass said for them at St. Aloysius.

November - we had a meeting and then went out to eat together.

Last Thursday in November made up fruit baskets for our homebound and help Father deliver them on First Friday.

December - we made some baskets up for St. Jerome's Italian Night silent auction.

We helped decorate the church for Christmas.

January - having potluck after Sunday mass last Sunday in January.

Will be helping take down Christmas.

February- participating and helping with the K.C. chili cookoff

**St. Mary’s – Keyesville**

President Deb Lord

**October**:  Parish wide multi-family rummage sale to raise funds to help furnish our parish rectory.

**November**:  Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service with Willow Valley United Methodist Church.  Donations of food and money were collected to help support the Richland Area Food Pantry.

**December:**  PCCW Brunch fundraiser serving biscuits & gravy, breakfast casseroles, baked goods, fruit & more.  Also featuring a variety of silent auction baskets.

Host of Wreaths Across America in honor of the veterans and a gold star mother buried in our cemetery.

Christmas Cookie Tray Sale to raise money for the sponsorship of our child at Cosar Hogar in Peru and also in support of our Hometown Heros at the Richland Center Hospital, Police Department, Fire Department, and Nursing Homes.  79 trays were assembled, sold and delivered.

Baby Shower for Baby Jesus.  Donations of baby clothes, wipes, diapers and monetary donations to benefit the Little Lambs Closet in Richland Center.

**2024 plans** will include furnishing the remodeled rectory and possibly repeating the Souper Brunch/lunch gatherings. Also, continuation of our first Sunday of each month "Coffee & Donuts and more!"

nd raising is a Lenten Fish Fry and Bake Sale on March 1st. The proceeds from the bake sale will go to the scholarship fund. On Sunday, March 3rd, we will be hosting a

Family Fun Bingo in our parish hall. Free to all but bring a snack to share with all. We are still waiting for someone to step up for President and Vice-president of our PCCW.

**St. Boniface, Waumandee**

**Mary Hildebrand/Karen Pronschinske Co-Presidents**

A social was held after Mass in October hosted by St. Cecelia’s Group

Hosted the Fall Spirituality Gathering on October 21st at 10:30 A.M. Served brunch for the ladies following the meeting.

Set-up our Giving Tree the weekend of November 25th through December 9th. Served five families.

from the Buffalo County area.

Gave the gift of the “Holy Moments” book to everyone at Mass the 1st weekend of Advent. More

Books are in the back of church for anyone interested.

Handed out treat bags to the St. Boniface students on St. Nicholas Day.

Had our Christmas potluck gathering/meeting on December 18th at Darlene Slaby’s home. Wrote

Christmas cards to all our Honorary members.

**St. Peter & Paul, Independence**

**Janell Halama, PCCW President**

Provided 72 St. Nicholas treat bags to the students of our Catholic School. Held BINGO and lunch for a community activity and fundraiser in October. Provided lunch for our parish’s Poultry Fest Fundraiser. Served the refreshments for the Deanery Confirmation in October.