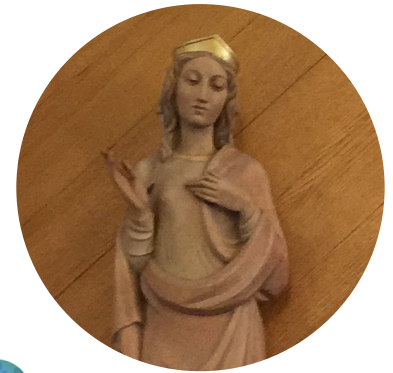


St. Paul VI Women's Society News

March 2023

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ST. PAUL VI PARISH

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Come and coffee-klatch with us

We will get together Wednesday, March 1, for our monthly gathering at 7:00 in the lower-level Marian Room at Mater Christi Church. It will be a coffee klatch – simply, time for good conversation among friends over a cup of coffee – and other refreshments. It promises to be an evening of relaxation and a few optional trivia and bingo games. Prospective members are always welcome!

Arrive a little early and join us at 6:30 in church for the Rosary, a beautiful Lenten devotion.

Help us make everyone at our gatherings feel welcome and valued by embodying the invitation our parish extends on its website: “Whoever you are, no matter where you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome and wanted here! Please take time to discover for yourself an authentic and welcoming community that you can call home.”

Prayer mosaic pulled us closer to Jesus

Our February 1 gathering was highlighted by the spiritual experience of a prayer mosaic. Each of five stations was designed to help us develop a deeper connection with the Lord. Reflections were at each station, along with an activity meant to help us move beyond the wounds and worries of life and lay them at the foot of the Cross. One of the activities was writing something inspirational on a smooth stone, and these were laid near the Mother of Mothers Shrine. Theresa Mendez (at right in photo) and Nicki Mendez created this inspirational devotion, and at the conclusion, symbolically shredded the personal burdens each person wrote down and laid at the foot of the Cross. Thank you also to our February hostesses, Laurene McHatton and Kathy Lipinski, helped by Teresa Hall.



Join us on our April retreat

We are pleased to announce that on Saturday, April 19, the Rev. Francis Bitterman will lead a retreat for our Women's Society. It will be held in the Marian Room at Mater Christi Church. Father Bitterman was once an associate pastor at (former) Mater Christi Parish and is currently pastor of St. Josaphat Parish in Chicago.



The theme of the retreat presentations will be “Keys to Building a Stronger Faith.” A continental breakfast will start the day at 9:00, followed by the morning session. Lunch at noon will consist of a croissant sandwich with a choice of ham and cheese, turkey and cheese, or tuna, accompanied by fresh fruit, chips, a pickle, and a drink. The afternoon session will follow lunch. Our retreat will conclude with a 2:30 Mass in Church.

Cost of the retreat will be \$30. Any woman is more than welcome to attend! Bern Gordus, Women's Society spiritual co-chairwoman, is arranging the event. Tickets and a sign-up sheet will be available once again at our March 1 gathering. Or you can fill out the form in the parish bulletin, or call Ida Clary, 708-344-3894. Please register by Wednesday, April 5!

Women's Society projects

Feeding the Hungry

Our Women's Society's shelter project is going strong, according to Carol Dvorak, but could use more volunteers!



The first Friday of each month, generous cooks provide a total of 40 dinners for the homeless at the Housing Forward shelter in Oak Park. Each volunteer makes 5 to 10 dinners of a menu of their choosing comprising an entrée, a vegetable, and a dessert. Containers are provided, and volunteers drop off the meals at Kathy Burns' home in North Riverside for delivery. If interested, please email burns.kathleen@comcast.net.

"Spring in Chicago" around the corner

The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women's spring fundraiser is planned for Saturday, March 18, at Drury Lane Oakbrook from 11:30-2:00. Following a luncheon and raffles will be a 1-hour comedy game show, "Are You Smarter Than Your 8th Grade Nun"? Tickets are \$50 and will be available at our meeting.



Stations and a simple meal



Our Women's Society will lead the Stations of the Cross and prepare and serve a simple meal of soup and bread to precede the Lenten Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 31. A signup sheet will be available at our March gathering for members who would like to bring a homemade or store-bought soup or bread. The meal will be from 5:30-6:30 in the Marian Room, with Stations beginning at 7:00 in Mater Christi Church.

Woman of the Year nominees invited

The Woman of the Year banquet will be held Saturday, May 20, at Allegra Banquets in Schiller Park. At our March meeting, we will invite any members who wish to nominate someone to privately let Susan Kahler know who it is, and why that member deserves to be nominated. A written list of nominees will be compiled, and a ballot box provided at the April 12 meeting. The list will also be printed in the April newsletter, and those who will be unable to attend the April meeting may contact Susan by April 11 with their vote.

Membership

Have you paid your Women's Society dues yet? They are only \$15. Please see Nancy Sima or Ida Clary.



Calendar

- March 1: Monthly Gathering
- March 18: ACCW "Spring in Chicago" fundraiser
- March 31: Sponsor Stations of the Cross and soup meal
- April 9: Easter
- April 12: Monthly Gathering
- April 19: Women's Society retreat
- April 29: Sisters, Soda, and Scripture
- May 3: Monthly Gathering

Our society needs servant leaders

The 2-year terms of our St. Paul VI Women's Society officers and board members will come to an end this June. Some of the current leaders have been serving in their current or other positions for years, one as long as 20 years! Please take to heart whether you could volunteer for and be a good fit for one of these positions: co-presidents, secretary (currently unfilled), treasurer, and service committee co-chairs (currently unfilled), and let Susan Kahler or Carol Dvorak know.



Help Needed

We need hostesses for our April 12 and May 3 gatherings. If you haven't been a hostess yet this past year, please consider recruiting a friend or two and volunteering for one of those dates!



Keep In Your Prayers

Pray for healing for the sick members of our Society, including Del Burns, Carol Dvorak, Bern Gordus, Linda Johnson, JoAnne Kosey, and Virginia Novak.



March



Lauri Bukowski
Marlene DeSantis
Wilma Pecka
Alyce Pilarski