



Pastoral Council Update



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The Parish of **MARY** MOTHER OF MERCY

This new parish includes three churches from three different towns in the Finger Lakes: Holy Cross Church in Ovid, St. Francis Solanus Church in Interlaken and St. James the Apostle in Trumansburg, spanning a distance of approximately 16 miles with St. Francis Solanus in the middle where we hold our meetings. We have five members from each parish as part of the Pastoral Council, fifteen total with two alternates. The Religious Ed Program is strong and the logistics of classroom space has been working out very nicely with our Confirmation program in full swing. We have effectively merged the Music Minis-



try programs among all three churches and sponsored a Parish Mission in October 2016. Our Worship Committee has developed a newly-formed Liturgy Committee including additional church members to participate. Socially, we have already hosted our first three parish get-togethers, including a dinner dance this past October.

As exciting as a new merged parish can be it can also be very daunting. One of the challenges we face is not only the distance between the parishes but that two of the parishes are in one county

and the third parish is another. The two counties implement their community programs very differently making it a challenge to make all three churches feel cohesive in regards to community endeavors.

Overall, it certainly has been a year of change, with a new revised bulletin extremely different from the past one, a brand new website plus we are constructing a new logo. Even with all these changes we have tried to preserve the personality of each parish while working as one unified organized group.

Highlight: Cathy Millspaugh

Pastoral Council Chair of the newly merged “Mary Mother of Mercy” parish



This is my first year as Pastoral Council Chair, and a newly merged one as well, so I have much to learn. I am very fortunate for my Committee Chairs have taken on their roles with much vigor. I have been a parishioner of St. Francis Solanus for 39 years, active for 30 of those through many different ministries within the parish. I started out as a Eucharistic Minister and am presently celebrating my 30th year. As my children started to need Faith Formation I volunteered as a Religious Ed Teacher

for many years and loved it so, that I continued even after they were finished with their studies. Not only did I teach, but I took on a leadership role as Religious Ed Director for two of the parishes, Holy Cross and St. Francis Solanus. Throughout my years, I volunteered as a Parish Council Member, BBQ worker at one of our fundraising events and a collection counter for St. Francis presently in my eighteenth season.

You would identify me as a cradle Catholic for I attended Queen of Martyrs parochial school till 8th

grade and attended Archbishop Carroll High School, both in Buffalo, NY. My husband and I happily celebrated our 40th Anniversary last year and have two children. Our daughter and her husband live in Colorado with our two grandchildren and our son lives locally and is getting married this July. Both my son-in-law and future daughter-in-law have attended the RCIA programs.

Presently, I am retired as the Executive Director of the Cayuga Lake Wine Trail, 2 years already, and now I also volunteer as the Chair of the Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway.



Parish Events around the Diocese

St. Joseph the Worker Parish of Lyons, Clyde and Savannah distributed 500 copies of Matthew Kelly's book, *Resisting Happiness*, at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. The project was an overwhelming success. We also sent cards to all the home-bound and are distributing booklets of Lenten Meditations for the Lenten Season. Currently, building bookshelves to accommodate a Parish Library. Roger Clark, Chair

To celebrate a spirit of community and evangelization, **St. Paul's** Catholic Church's Parish Pastoral Council is planning a 'Bring a Friend to Church' weekend scheduled for May 20 and 21. Parishioners will be given invitations to give to friends and family to attend St. Paul's for Mass and fellowship after. Janet Trippe, Chair

Holy Trinity, Webster, NY

After a concerted push by the pastoral council and Fr. Tim Horan to collect parishioner email addresses, *Holy Trinity Connection* is now able to disperse parish information to over a thousand homes!

We've also started an "Art of Marriage program to help marriage couples remain active in their faith and foster healthy marriages. We recognize this vocation poses its own challenges and can be helped through support and fellowship. Our first event, "Celebrating You" featured a cocktail hour with musical harp accompaniment and was attended by one hundred and eighty seven couples! More on this as we continue the program.

Cathy Imes, Chair

St. Francis and St. Clare, Waterloo

1. We continue our Nicaragua Project which have been involved with for 20 years. Every year we send a tractor trailer full of donations from our parish to help the various parishes in Nicaragua
 2. A free Tuesday Morning Breakfast is prepared by members of our parish from 8:30 – 10:00 am. It have become a very popular event.
 3. We have a "Going Green" initiative for the parish as a Pastoral Council goal .
 4. The Pastoral Council is planning a First Responders' Service in the Spring.
 5. We are currently planning a Holy Hours event for March 24- 26. Various Parish committees will be responsible for one hour presentations. Lillian Devries, Chair

St. John of Rochester, Fairport

We will be doing a new parish directory in the spring. We are looking forward to working on this project as a parish.
 Joan Ugino, Chair

Highlight: Cathy Imes Pastoral Council Chair, Holy Trinity Webster

I hail from Old Forge Pennsylvania where I was a parishioner of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church till my relocation to Holy Trinity Church, Webster New York in 1973. My childhood and teen years were very much influenced by my Ukrainian/Czechoslovak family. My Dad was cantor in our church for over 50 years and I found that our social life and that of my neighbors revolved around our parish. Needless to say, I have many wonderful memories and traditions linked to church holy and holidays that I still maintain to this day.

I graduated from St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, Carbondale, Pennsylvania and St. Joseph's College, North Windham, Maine with a Master's in Health Services Administration. My nursing career has focused on Women's Gynecologic Specialties and now in semi-retirement assist in Preoperative teaching for patients awaiting a surgical procedure. When not nursing, I lead the Rosary and am a weekly Corpus Christi Minister, at the Maplewood Nursing Home and Episcopal Church Home.

I currently am on the Holy Trinity Parish Council, Parish Life, and Cemetery Planning Committee, as well as assist at funerals when time allows.

Ed and I will be celebrating 44 years of marriage in 2017 and currently our daughter, Sarah, resides in Newfield, New York.

Pastoral Council Prayers

Opening and Closing prayers for the pastoral councils can be found on the DOR website at:
<http://www.dor.org/index.cfm/pastoral-services/pastoral-councils/> or go to **dor.org** website to **Pastoral Services to Pastoral Councils to Resources.**

St. Rita in Webster , Pamela Kunzer , Chair, and Our Lady of Lourdes/St. Anne, Rochester are sponsoring Lenten suppers. The theme at OLOL/ St. Anne is *Local Voices, Global Church*, celebrating diversity within the Church.

Nativity BVM in Brockport is having a Lenten Retreat given by Bishop Emeritus Matthew Clark , April 2-4 at 7:00pm. John Lemke, Chair

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