ARCADIA DEANERY ACTIVITY REPORT

JANUARY 2021

As year 2020 draws to a close, sadness was upon St. Peter & Paul Parish, Independence as well

as Arcadia Deanery. Our dear friend, Karen Bisek was taken from this earth and joined with

her Heavenly Father. Karen’s devotion to the Catholic Faith was exemplified by her participation

with the Parish Council of Catholic Women and Arcadia Deanery. Karen served as Deanery President

for numerous terms and at the time of her death was Hospitality Chairwoman. We will definitely

miss her willingness to serve and her pleasant smile.

PCCW members from SS. Peter & Peter, St. Lawrence, St. Bartholomew attended the Zoom Leadership

Workshops. Thank you LDCCW.

PARISH ACTIVITIES:

**St. Mary’s, Galesville, Becky Harris- President**

St. Mary’s had an Advent project where they collected donations for the local elementary school.

This year due to Covid-19 and the uncertainty of school being held, we asked for cash donations so the

school could use it as their needs changed with the pandemic. We also encouraged donations of

food and items for the local pantry.

**St. Boniface, Waumandee, Co-Presidents Mary Hildebrand & Karen Pronschinske**

St. Boniface activities for November/December were “Our Giving Tree” during Advent and

St. Nicholas gifts for students and teachers at St. Boniface School.

**St. Bartholomew’s Trempealeau, Co-Presidents Mary Leavitt & Kay Richtman**

Due to Covid-19, the Fall Festival was not held. With much planning and adjusting, we were able

to sponsor a Drive Thru Fish Fry. This effort to raise funds for the PCCW ongoing ministry was

projected to fall short of the need. We reached out to our parish community to ask if they would

continue to make a monetary donation so we could continue to provide assistance during these

difficult times. The response was overwhelming. We served 307 dinners and cheese curds for a

profit of $2,475 and accepted $3,625 in donations for a total of $6,100. Once again our community

comes together to help those in need. The proceeds were used to provide financial support to

various local and international organizations: Diocese of La Crosse Seminarian Fund, Casa Hogar

Mission, Televised Masses, Catholic Charity Warming Center, Arcadia Deanery –Refugee Women,

Madonna Place, Water for Life, Milk Project, St. Clare Health Mission, School Sisters of St. Francis,

Catholic Extension, Sponsor an International Child, Grace Place of Winona, Place of Grace-La Crosse,

Marinuka Manor Nursing Home, Trempealeau County Health Care Center, and G.E.T. Food Pantry.

Advent Project: With all the lockdowns and no visitors allowed at Marinuka Manor Nursing Home,

Service Chairwoman, Mary Kay Plunger, organized “Sweet Shop” candy treat for 34 residents and 11 in the assisted living home. Included was a little message from the PCCW.

Church Library Project: Jeanne Piller has organized a library for the CCD program and eventually

available for all parishioners.

Christmas Caring Tree: PCCW organized this project to help out a family of eight in the area.

With the overwhelming response, the family was provided with needed gifts and the ingredients to make a Christmas Dinner.

**Holy Family, Arcadia, Sherry Reck-Haines, President**

Holiday Bazaar was held on December 11. Although the bazaar had a new format (No soup,

Sandwich nor dessert) there were a number of excellent prizes shared with the community.

PCCW ladies shared their time, talent, and treasure making their famous coffeecakes for a

fundraiser.

**St. Ansgar, Blair, Mary Hanson, President**

Advent project consisted of a “Mitten Tree”. Hats and gloves were distributed in

Trempealeau County.

**Sacred Heart, Pine Creek, Donna Waletski, President**

PCCW help sponsor Santa Treat Bags which were handed out after Mass on Sunday, Dec. 13th.

PCCW fundraiser consisted of taking orders for coffeecakes which were made by the ladies.

**St. Lawrence, Alma, Joette Gillett, Presiden**t

A huge “Thank You” to the PCCW families for their donations to the annual cookie walk.

We could not continue to send cards to our homebound or gas card and donations to those

In need.

**Immaculate Conception, Fountain City, Julie Murphy, President**

PCCW members help organize at the Food Pantry located at the Parish Life Center on

Thursdays.

Submitted by: Janet Amundson

Arcadia Deanery, President

**DURAND DEANERY COUNCIL**

**OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (DDCCW)**

January 2021

Dean: Very Rev. Joseph Okine-Quartey

St. Joseph’s PCCW, Arkansaw

*Linda Lieffring, president*

In place of their Fall Bazaar, donations were suggested this time. They had a very good response; more money was raised than the actual Bazaar had in other years! An *All Souls Day Remembrance* service for deceased parishioners was held on Nov. 2.

St. Mary’s Altar & Rosary Society, Big River

*Mary Jacobs, president*

St. Luke’s Altar Society, Boyceville

*Joyce Hill, president*

St. Mary’s PCCW, Durand

*Tiffany Garner, president*

St Henry’s PCCW, Eau Galle

*Marge Briggs, president*

St. Henry’s PCCW meetings held on November 3, 2020 and December 8, 2020 in Eau Galle WI.

On November 3rd, we met at St Henry’s practicing safe distancing and were able to review all that had happened over the past several months.  We discussed the fact that since we have been able to attend church in limited numbers that sometimes even those spaces were not filled.  CDC classes were not able to be held on a regular basis and although we were able to complete First Communion and Confirmation rites, they were so limited for family attendance that we were not able to celebrate with recipients.

Change of officers of the group was discussed and all of the present officers elected to keep their posts for the year 2021.  Our group leaders would be changed and their folios for normal procedures were to be updated for the future.

A decision was made that this December it would be very important to our senior members of the congregation to receive the normal gift of cookies and candies.  Our list of shut-ins was reviewed and we came up with 30 church members in care centers, nursing homes and in their residences, who were to receive these gifts.  It was decided that each contributor would bag these items in groups of 6 in their homes and bring them to the Church on December 8th to assist in assembling the “cookie tins.”  This seemed to be the safest way to deliver them.

Since our financial status is not very stable, we have not been able to contribute to any other outside requests for assistance.  We continue to support a child in Africa at this time.  We prayed for God’s assistance in all future endeavors as we ended our meeting.

On December 8th we met again with bags full of cookies supplied by members and guests.  After prayers and normal reports, we welcomed some new guests into the group and started assembly of the “cookie tins.”  This all went very well and we were able to fill all of the gift items we planned to deliver.  We did not participate in a formal new officer ceremony at this time.  Our long-term director of funeral operations, Dorothy Shannon, has decided that at 85 years of age she can no longer continue in this position.  She has been the rock we have all leaned on for many years and we will miss her presence in this position.

We were proud to acknowledge Julie Fedie, a long-time member, and her son, Joe, in the December Catholic Life edition. If you have received this edition, you will see that Julie turns 98 this January and has served the church and PCCW more than half her life in some capacity or other.

Masses will be special for all of us this Christmas and since we are limited in capacity this year, it appears that the reserved seats are filling rapidly.  God Bless us all and we will celebrate your birth in the best way we can.

St. Francis Altar Society, Ellsworth

*Barb Leier, president*

Our quilters are meeting in a member’s shed now as we practice social distancing. They provide baby quilts for all the newly baptized which are given to them the day they are baptized. The ladies have been attending virtual studies and classes that the parish offers. We also continue to welcome Father Rebacz in these hard times of COVID with all the limitations; we are following the recommendations and guidelines.

Sacred Heart PCCW, Elmwood

*Mary Ann Jensen, president*

Holy Rosary PCCW, Lima

*Sara Mack, president*

Eucharistic Adoration was held on Election Day.

St. Joseph’s PCCW, Menomonie

*Rita Ulesich, president*

I would like to report that we awarded a $1,000 scholarship in September to a very deserving young lady in our Parish.  We have done this for a number of years, and hopefully, we can continue to do it this year. The Executive Board met in the summer, and we made the necessary plans for the remainder of the year.  Many events had to be cancelled, thus affecting most of our activities.  We have always sponsored a child in the Unbound project, a boy from Costa Rica.  We correspond with him, and it is very interesting to hear about his life. Also, some of our ladies attended the LDCCW Zoom workshops.

Sacred Heart PCCW, Mondovi

*Kathy Herfel, president*

We donated hats, mittens, socks and other items to the Chileda Institute in La Crosse in January. We paid for our kitchen cooler repair. Ladies attended the LDCCW Zoom workshops in October and November. Masses were offered for people in nursing homes and assisted living facilities beginning Dec. 23. Ladies baked and assembled Christmas gift baskets for about 50 people in our parish this season. The Liturgy Committee decorated the church for Christmas.

St. John’s PCCW, Plum City

*Suzie Brunner, president*

St. John's Parish Council of Catholic Women sponsored a family for Christmas.  We mailed Christmas cards to everyone in the parish.

St. Joseph’s, Prescott (no active CCW)

Sacred Heart PCCW, Spring Valley

*Beth Ingli, president*

Cookbooks came over the summer and are may be purchased for $10. The Parish House project involved the PCCW buying curtains and new bedding while men did some sheet rock work. We participated in the Boxes of Joy and Feed My Starving Children as well as the Foster Closet and Christmas for Kids programs. Father Amir is leading Rosary Processions the 1st Saturday of each month at 3:00 p.m. alternating between the 3 parishes (St. Luke - Boyceville, Sacred Heart - Elmwood, and Sacred Heart - Spring Valley).

**Marshfield Deanery Report**

**Saturday-January 16, 2021**

**Due to meeting restrictions during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Marshfield Deanery has not met as a group. Most Parishes have not held any meetings but are still carrying on as best they can.**

**Parishes:**

**St. John’s**

**We held a carry-out Fall Dinner on Sunday, November 8th to help use up pantry items, which needed to be used due to lack of funeral lunches this year.**

**We held our annual Christmas Sweepstakes and sold a record number of tickets.**

**We gave Ray Housworth $100 toward his rosary repair mission.**

**We sent Christmas cards to shut ins.**

**We sent a donation of $100 to both Reverend Dick Pankratz’s Philippines mission, and Bishop Robert Flock’s mission in Bolivia.**

**We gave Christmas gifts of cheese and sausage to Sister Rita, Deacon Austin, and our school custodians.**

**We gave monetary gifts to both our priests.**

**We purchased a book called “My Big Book of Catholic Bible Stories” for all of our First Communicants in 2021.**

**We paid for two automatic hand sanitizing stations, and 2 automatic holy water stations for the entrance of church.**

**We gave a donation toward a beautiful wood Last Supper picture for the rectory.**

* **Susan Youngwith, St. John’s PCCW President**

**Sacred Heart**

**Sacred Heart PCCW has suspended meetings since April.  The officers have met to continue our obligations and donations.  We have made donations to Mary’s Place, Alpine Holiday, Hannah Center and St. Vincent de Paul Outreach and our normal Christmas gifts to Father and staff.  We purchased a new washer and dryer and knife set for the rectory.  We continue to send out sympathy, thinking of you and get-well cards to parishioners and also sent Christmas cards to nursing homes and shut ins.**

* **Kathy Steffen, Sacred Heart PCCW President**

**Corpus Christi**

**We had a very successful Carryout-Only Soup Dinner in November. We made donations locally to Hannah Center, Shirley's House of Hope and Mary’s Place. We are trying to keep our support close to home as I believe the local economy, restaurants and stores are suffering due to loss of income.**

* **Janet Bell, Corpus Christi PCCW President**

**Christ the King**

**Three of our circles sent a letter to their ladies asking for a momentary donation in lieu of their yearly fundraiser. This did help with our ongoing expenses. We continue to give to the Hannah Center and monthly masses for PCCW ladies.**

* **Diane Witmer, Christ the King PCCW President**

**St. Andrew’s**

**We donated to the Hannah Center in Marshfield instead of doing the Baby Bottle Project this year. We organized a food drive for our local food pantry in Stratford and we bought Christmas gifts for a needy family.**

* **Grace Mullen, St. Andrew’s PCCW President**

**St. Joseph’s**

**At present our PCCW is pretty much inactive and I think that is OK until things turn around. We will get back on track as soon as we can.**

* **Ruth Gawlikoski, St. Joseph’s PCCW President**

**St. Michael’s**

**We have not had any meetings since March in accordance with the guidelines of safety for covid-19. We had our first-ever "No Parish Dinner Donation Fundraiser" by mail which was a huge success with all proceeds to the parish. The ladies have done a remarkable job in assuming the important responsibility of implementing and administering health safety precautions and sanitizing the church and hall. We had First Communion late in the fall and gifted handmade wood crucifixes to the communicants. In lieu of Christmas** **donations for Christmas poinsettias we offered parishioners to request special masses for their deceased, prayers for personal intentions and blessings on the prayer chain, donating monetary memorials for St. Michael's and/or a special item to be purchased for the church, hall, or kitchen. We presented a monetary gift for Thanksgiving to an outstanding Catholic family with several children who model a wonderful Christian life. We are currently in progress of making fringe tied fleece blankets for the hospital pediatric and child cancer units. We are hoping to have 15 completed for Valentine's Day.**

* **Karen Welniak, St. Michael's PCCW President.**

**St. Mary’s**

**We made donations to Hannah House, Religious Education for CCD, supplies needed during COVID 19, and a donation to the Christmas Care program. We collected new winter clothing and blankets for St. Vincent's Outreach Center to be used at Christmas time.  We sent Christmas cards with Novena Masses to the elderly members of our parish.  We send sympathy and get-well cards to members of our parish.  We led the rosary before Sunday Mass during the month of October. Our fundraisers were a Fall Dinner Cash Donation and a Wreath Sale. Both were very successful.**

* **Margie Gehrke, St. Mary’s PCCW President**

**St. Kilian’s**

**We delivered gift bags to shut-in and ill parishioners (some by proxy) in December. We also obtained copies of the Wood County Booklet of Human Resources and put them in the back of church. We added some info, including for the First Choice Pregnancy Resource Centers, an additional food pantry, and the correct address for Destiny Point Women's Help Home. This was in response to the Helping Women Campaign. We have not had a dinner for 5 years and just have a "Donate in Place of a Dinner" Campaign. I do not have the final total for this, though – we probably raised something over $4,000. St. Kilian’s has a member who sends out get well cards, sympathy cards and birthday or anniversary cards for 75 years old or 50+ years married. We have completed the renovations in the Sanctuary (new tabernacle altar, new side tables, angel statues on pedestals and a new wall drape behind the large crucifix and tabernacle.) All these things were planned and coordinated by the PCCW over the past 1 1/2 years. The drape was hung just before Christmas. Since we do not have many members and have only met twice since last March, we are again on hold but may meet sometime early in this year.**

* **Vicki Palen-St. Kilian’s PCCW President**

**We are hoping to hold a Marshfield Deanery Spring Assembly and Installation of Officers as soon as we can once meeting restrictions are lifted.**

**Ann Walgenbach**

**President-Marshfield Deanery**

**Richland Center Deanery Report**

January, 2021

By Joyce Humfeld, Deanery President

**St. Anthony – Cazenovia**

Because of Covid 19 and the elderly population of the parish, the PCCW has not been active in the past few months.

**St. Aloysius-Hillsboro**

Fruit baskets were filled for the homebound and elderly and some of the PCCW members helped deliver them the first Friday of December. The ladies also helped decorate the church for Christmas.

**St. Mary’s-Keysville**

Our parish has been divided with half able to attend mass one Sunday and rotate watching it online the opposite weekend as we share a priest. “Gifts for Baby Jesus” was a Christmas activity where parishioners filled a bassinet with diapers and clothing that was donated to charity. They continue to have a drive through donut Sunday monthly. The PCCW sponsors a girl in Cosa Hogar. A cookie tray sale before Christmas raised money for the seminarians.

**Sacred Heart-Lone Rock**

We continue to make our usual monetary donations to our usual recipients that we do annually. The nursing homes in Richland Center and Spring Green, Passages, and the local food pantries received donations at Christmastime.

**Saint Mary’s-Richland Center**

Due a spike in COVID-19 cases, the October and November meetings were held via zoom. The No Bake Bake Sale letter has had about a 40% response rate. They are planning for a picnic on June 12th to kick off summer. The script program is online. The PCCW is paid for a virtual confirmation retreat in November. Money is donated for Boots for Kids and Pine Valley haircuts. A case of gloves was donated to the school kitchen.

**St. Mary’s – Viroqua**

PCCW continues to support 2 seminarians with a monthly donation and our usual charities. Christmas cards were sent to the homebound and residents in the local nursing homes and assisted living. Some of the quilters still meet. Quilts were donated to Toys for Tots and Catholic Charities. Quilts are also given to the ill of the parish and at baptisms. Our low Sunday collection was held and money added to total last year’s donation.

**St. Jerome’s – Wonewoc**

The PCCW held a takeout soup and sandwich fundraiser in September, a successful fundraiser. A pie social was held in October to raise money for the seminarians with a $250 donation being sent. The Low Sunday collection was held Nov. 1. Baskets were filled and sent to the homebound and elder along with food and fuel gift cards at Christmas. The members of the PCCW continue to cover adoration times every other week at the St. Theresa Adoration Chapel.

Tomah Deanery Report – January 2021

**St. Michael the Archangel – Indian Creek**

PCCW ladies decorated and will be doing take-down of Christmas decorations.

PCCW ladies picking out new carpeting for our church remodel project.

Gave a Christmas gift to our shut-ins and elderly who live alone, some disabled.

Sent a "thinking of you/missing you" note to several parish members who have not been able to

attend Mass during this pandemic.

**St. John – Summit Ridge**

No activities to report. However, talking about having a fundraiser.

**St. Joseph – Guardian Angels Parish – Black River Falls**

No official PCCW Meetings are being held at this time. Communication is usually done through email, text or phone call. However, ladies continue to take care of the needs of the church.

Altar/pews cleaned on a regular basis.

Ladies decorated altar and Church for Christmas. Nativity set up outdoors.

Poinsettia flowers for altar were purchased.

Meal trains for the sick are enacted when needed.

Prayer chains ongoing.

Advent readings were held on Tuesday mornings.

Members conducting Bible Study.

Masses said for deceased PCCW members.

2021 calendars were purchased for all members of the Parish.

**St. Kevin – Guardian Angels Parish – Melrose**

Flowers to shut-ins at Christmas.

Bulletins sent to homebound.

Outdoor rosary recited in October for conversion and America.

Christmas gifts delivered to mothers and babies at Apple Pregnancy Care Center – Eau Claire.

Decorated church inside and outdoors for Advent and Christmas.

Presented Father Emmanuel with Christmas gift and financial gift when he went home to Ghana for mother’s funeral.

Deanery officers (St. Kevin and St Joseph) participated in Leadership Workshop Zoom Series in October/November.

**Queen of the Apostles – Tomah-Warrens**

A group from the PCCW prepared and served over 200 meals for the Tomah Community Table.  The ladies did a fantastic job utilizing a drive-through delivery method.  We utilized Zoom for the first time for our December meeting.  While there was not a lot of business to cover, we were able to pray a rosary together.  Melanie Frei graciously hosted.

Mary I. Murray Woods

Tomah Deanery President

January 11, 2021

WAUSAU DEANERY

January 16, 2021

La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Quarterly Meeting

Most of our Council ladies are still hesitant to participate in meetings, therefore, items to report are limited.

From St. Catherine's Council within Holy Name of Jesus Parish in attended meetings from September through November received small gifts that were personally delivered. They may have a February meeting, but have plans set up until summer time to be ready. Wausau, they did not have a Christmas party, but members who February would bring a Valentine craft project. March brings plans for a mini-retreat. April will be brightened with a gardening program. May has the annual salad and dessert buffet, if possible. The current President for St. Catherine's is the cake decorator for a local grocery store and her works are well known and well received. On hold are two projects that they often are involved in: Jubilee House that feeds anyone in need of a meal one night per week. Many of the Churches within the Deanery take turns providing, cooking, serving, and cleaning up. Another favorite place to assist is the Wausau Community Warming Center run by Catholic Charities. Both programs are halted until COVID-19 restrictions change. They are also assisting in the Parish Spaghetti Dinner Pick Up.

The Little Flower Council of St. Therese of the Child Jesus in Rothschild made masks and sold them along with numerous colors of dishcloths that have always been popular as gifts for holidays or showers or weddings or new households. Although Church meals are still a no-no, they provided a few Priests a great meal before having confessions the week of Christmas. We got to meet Father Joe who was ordained just a few months ago and quite entertaining and easy to be around. He stays and works with Msgr. Mark Pierce and that makes for a marvelous twosome. For the first Friday night of Lenten Stations, the ladies will conduct "Mary's Way of the Cross." This year there will be no Lenten Lunches at Noon on Fridays as well as no Saint Joseph's Luncheon. In honor of the Parishioners joining Jesus during the past year, a special Prayer Service was instituted with the help of Father Albert. It was very well received and will continue in the future due to a great response of appreciation from the families involved.