

COMMUNITY LIFE

Semi-annual report; November 2010

Mission statement:

Community Life works to build community within the Saint Thomas Aquinas parish through activities that will appeal to a variety of age groups. With parish participation, we strive to make the parish at large a welcoming community.

Events in Review

May 16h: Our spring garden party: “Come Smell the Roses”



An opportunity for the entire parish to gather and enjoy the Pastoral Gardens. The gardens were ablaze with flowers. Many thanks go to our gardener, Arlen Hagen, and his toil in the soil. Refreshments were provided by our ministry as all enjoyed a lovely day.

June 6th: Farewell Father George.



We assembled at Saint Elizabeth Seton School Auditorium to thank Father

George, our good Shepard, and send him on to Saint Clare’s Parish with our blessings. He sang his favorite song, “*If I Were a Rich Man*”. It was followed by a funny parody composed by John Braun and Walt Lundin and performed by Chris Lundin. Too many to mention contributed tasty finger foods and we enjoyed lemonade, and champagne. Ted Baer was the beverage king.

October 3rd The annual Parish Picnic.



Saint Albert the Great was the site of this year’s picnic; 224 attended. Ted Baer, as usual, spearheaded the planning of this annual event. The Knight’s of Columbus provided the burgers, hot dogs and fire roasted vegetables and cooked them to perfection. The rest of us brought salad or dessert as the first letter of our last names dictated. The STAYouth did a wonderful job, providing fun games for the kids including a cake-walk. There were crafts, face painting, balloon animals, piñata and a fire truck.

October 24th The Installation of Father Matt Stanley



We welcomed our new pastor, Father Matt, with what many have said was our best reception ever! It was held in the Elizabeth Seton School Auditorium, following a moving mass with our bishop and a color guard provide by the Knight's of Columbus. Liturgical colors, balloons and banners created by Florence de Bretange decorated the hall. Mimosas were the beverage of choice.

Ongoing activities under the Community Life umbrella

Widows and Widowers group

This group meets on the 1st Thursday of each month. Their social activities include dinners, theater events and luncheons.

Cookie Crew

Everyone loves a cookie and there are never too many! Organized last year, these 40 gals and guys bake cookies for parish events whenever they are needed. Our every ready "Cookie Crew" caller is Mary Lee Hagen.

The Funeral Committee

Co-chairs, Helen Short and Winnie McGannon, lead this dedicated band of ladies. They provide the reception food after parish "Celebration of Life" Mass. Their compassionate family assistance is always appreciated by the families.

Future Events

Mass of Remembrance reception

November 20th: It will follow the 5 pm mass at Saint Albert the Great Church. It is a special mass and reception to remember those who have died during the past year. Everyone is invited to attend.

A Celebration for and special "Thank You" to Carl Bunje

To be held in January but our date is not yet set. We are planning a happy retirement party for our departing Deacon Carl and expect to fill the school auditorium with loving memories of his years of service to God and our community.

On the Horizon

- A welcoming reception for newcomers to our parish
- Our annual Saint Patrick's Day Dinner party in March
- The Seder Dinner tradition continues.
- The Easter Vigil reception.

Committee Members

Pat Briggs, Julie Crozier, Lorraine Dabney, Rita Paloma, Teddie Guenzer, Barbara Kent, Valerie Lo, Micky Martin, Joan Meyn, Sharon Nelson, Marguerite Purcell, Susana and Mario Veloro, Helen Short, Jeanne Ramos and Beverly Wade
Co-chairs.