

150th Celebratory Committee

Notes from July 21, 2015 meeting:

Members present:

- Gerald Williams, Fr. Steve, Gerry Humphrey, Jim Pitsch, Kristen Rewa, John Armock, Maureen Weick (Finance,) Les and Maxine Myers, Kayla Stephens, Chris and Denise Stephens

Agenda:

1. Welcome – introduce new members
2. Prayer
3. Review last meeting notes and to-do list
4. Announcement at mass and information sheet
5. Website
6. When – set “new” date
7. What – review response sheets from church
 - a. Create sheet for each idea we are confident with details
 - b. Create list of other ideas
8. Things to do and who will do them
9. Next meeting date – August 4, 2015 @ 6:30 PM (NOTE NEW TIME)

Welcome:

Maureen Weick attended to address financial concerns for the event.

John Armock was invited to give input on the Knights of Columbus and help with parish council input

Review of last meeting notes and to-do list:

- Maxine was not able to reach the Bishop’s office to confirm date, so we have to find a new date. Fr. Steve was able to talk to Lexie Shoemaker and get two possible dates. July 31 or August 14. As a committee, July 31, 2016 was chosen.
- Diane Jones created the displays at both entrances where the forms can be found and returned upon completion
- Announcement was read by commentator at July 11/12 masses. “The committee for the 150th Anniversary Celebration will be addressing the congregation in the next few weeks at each Mass about the plans for the events taking place next year, 2016. The committee would like your ideas, help in implementing ideas and financial support for this important work. Please think about how the gifts you have been given can be used to support this monumental and historical time in our lives.”
- Chris Stephens and Jim Pitsch gave the announcement after each mass the weekend of June 18/19. The announcement is attached to the end of this document. (Jim added an invitation for the youth to get involved.)
- Denise and Diane along with Kayla Stephens worked to add a 150th celebration page to the parish web site.

- To create/use an envelope for donations it has to go through the pastoral and finance committees. Jim and Maureen will take it to respective committees.
- Directory – discussion as to whether or not we want to have it completed to give out by 150th ann. Or wait to add pictures of the 150th to the directory
- It was suggested that we use a company to create the directory, but we go to parishioners that do not want to have a professional picture.

Response sheets (green forms)

- Idea of T-shirts
- Holy cards/prayer cards

Ideas we are confident about

- Mass with Bishops and priests on July 31.
- Directory
- Create Time Capsule
- Monthly events starting with game dinner, Nov. 2, 2015 and end with mass on July 31, 2016
- Picnic on Saturday, July 30
- Meal on Sunday, July 31
- Fundraising
- 150th memorial “thing”

What needs to be done next?

- Denise will email/call Lexie Shoemaker at Kzoo diocese to confirm date with Bishop’s calendar
- Maxine Myers will notify Grand Rapids of date, July 31, 2016
- Everyone is to think about the picnic/meal/caterers
- Everyone think about memorial – grotto, rosary garden...Fr. Steve’s job to draw a possible design
- Create an invitation for priests, nuns, bishops, etc. Denise
- Create a “save the date” magnet. Kristen
- Find policy for social media – Jim contact Dawn at St. Therese Wayland, Kristen contact Lori at St. Stan, Maxine contact St. Joe
- Set up a facebook page and possible twitter account to reach the younger crowd. (Kayla)
- Finance and pastoral will work on approving a fundraising envelope
- Fr. Steve to write a prayer for a pray card
- Sandy and Diane will work on updating parish list so that we can then start working on new parish directory
- Invite John Stein to next meeting to discuss how the annual golf outing can help promote or be part of the 150th celebration. (Denise)

Next meeting date – August 4, 2015 at 6:30 PM (NOTE NEW TIME)

NEW EMAIL FOR THIS COMMITTEE TO CORESPOND WITH PARISH

Smv150th@gmail.com

Announcement for July 18/19 -To be read by committee member

Hello, I am _____ and I am representing the 150th Anniversary Planning Committee. If you are not aware, St. Mary's Visitation Parish will be celebrating this 150th milestone next year, 2016. We would like to celebrate all year long with events happening each month. An August 7, 2016 date has been set for a mass with the Bishops and former priests. Additional activities are still in the early planning stages.

As a committee, we have met a few times to determine the who, what, where, when, why and how's of these events. We have had some great input, but need your help. One way you can help is to fill out the form that is in the pew requesting some parish and school history information, if you have not done so already. This information is important to us so that we have the ability to reach as many present and past parishioners and school alumni as possible. We do not want to miss anyone.

Another way that you can help is with suggestions. The form has a spot for adding ideas along with contact information by email or phone. There is a display at both entries for you to pick up a new form if needed and to return completed forms. All this information can also be found on the parish website under the "Parish Life" tab.

Money is always a driving force for any major undertaking and this celebration is no different. We will need your financial support with this endeavor through donations and fund raising activities. Envelopes will be available soon to make the process as easy as possible. If money is a deterrent, we need input on how to create some low cost events to celebrate the anniversary.

The Committee would like to thank you in advance for your support and prayers as we work to honor those that help create this parish that has given us so much.