Review of Charitable Works Survey for Spirituality Commission

Thank you to those that took time to return the Charitable Works surveys for last year. It is encouraging to hear what you are doing in your parish to create a community that is educated and dynamic as is the goal of the Spirituality Commission. We are called to discipleship and holiness, to respond with personal witness and service to the Church and to the world. This commission reinforces our Catholic faith and assists in meaningful work with other faiths. It offers a means to enhance public and private prayer, promotes sound liturgical practice that is sensitive to the cultural diversity of the Church and provides resources for spiritual nourishment and development of the faith community. Whether you are from a small parish or a large parish it is sometimes difficult to keep the community working together and flourishing, but we must keep trying.  

_Do small things with great love_  
Saint Mother Teresa

We have a special affection for and devotion to the Mother of Christ, parishes recite the rosary before mass and attend First Friday/Saturday devotions. One parish has a candle light rosary on Saturday nights during the summer. Some have the opportunity of Eucharistic Adoration weekly and some are working toward the goal of 7 days/24 hours. Some have a dedicated group attending daily mass. This Lent would be a good time to go a step further and grow that dedicated group and replace some of your time with some spiritually enriching practice.

The Spirituality Commission promotes association and support with the Pink Sisters in Lincoln. Along with the Pink Sisters some PCCW’s offer support to other orders within the Dioceses. For the Roses for Sisters on the Feast of St Theresa, one parish remembers the sisters with gift certificates and another offers masses for the intentions of the Sisters from their hometown and those teaching summer school.

As a result of a Parish mission in one parish, many Bible study groups were formed and continue today. Some parishes have access to a Formed account and are able to watch or listen to programs to learn and help us grow in our faith. One parish has a ‘Well Read Moms Book Club’. In another parish ‘Friday Night Lights’ was offered twice last year with adoration, music, prayer teams and followed with a social for the whole family. A Lenten Retreat was offered - ‘Mary’s Mantle Consecration: A spiritual Retreat for Heaven’s Help’ with daily rosary at home, inspirational readings and meeting on Saturday morning for rosary, benediction and a video. Parish members and the public enjoyed a virtual tour on Facebook of the Lenten churches of Rome hosted by their parish priest. Others have attended a retreat at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House at Waverly, our diocesan retreat center. A mother and daughter went on a 45 day pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago, the Way of St James last year. It was a trip of a lifetime and they shared a slide presentation with parishioners and friends about the trip. They are happy to share that with others if interested. You can contact her at bootswailes@aol.com

The Adopt-A-Priest Program is active in some parishes. A project of the Past Presidents of the LDCCW each parish prays and remembers their spiritually adopted priest or seminarian of the Diocese with cards and letters to show support and gratitude to the Priesthood. Along with that we have the Seven Sisters Apostolate that many parishes participate in. The mission of the apostolate is committed prayerful support toward a parish pastor or other priest. At least seven women in the parish commit to offering a Holy Hour exclusively for their parish Pastor, each on a distinct day of the week, thus covering a complete week. The Hour is ideally prayed in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament.
A few parishes support Masses for the homebound through contributions to the local television stations across the Diocese. Masses said for the deceased and living members of their PCCW, healing masses and Prayer chains for the sick and special needs are another way that women remember and pray for others. Through the prayers of the Auxiliary of St Monica we continue to pray for the return of our youth to the Church and the works of the Council.

The devotion to the Divine Mercy is promoted in the parishes by reciting the chaplet before mass along with the prayers to be recited at the special “hour of Mercy,” 3:00pm, the hour Christ died. Some celebrate “Divine Mercy Sunday” with special liturgies in their parish the Sunday following Easter.

A Parent Educator book is to be given to parents at the baptism of their first child along with a medal of the Holy Family and a holy card signed by the Bishop. Each child after that receives only the medal and holy card. In some parishes the Priest gives the gift to the parents and in others it is given in person by a member of the PCCW. In one parish, Father goes over the book with the new parents before baptism. The Spirituality Commission Chairman of each parish is responsible for seeing that this program is carried out in her parish. Work with your parish priest and decide how you want to present the gift. One parish honored families and babies baptized with a gift and refreshments after mass on the Feast of John the Baptist.

All of the above promote the work of the Spirituality Commission in some way. If you are in need of any resources or have any questions on any of the programs, please don’t hesitate to ask.

Thanks for all you do!
Tally for Charitable Works survey
Service Commission
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Happy April! This is the list from the Charitable Works surveys, I don't know a better way to do this, so here it is.

Diaper Drive/Cash Donation 18
Food pantry drive/donation community/Help run local food pantry 7
Sponsor family Christmas/Advent giving tree 2
Post prom donation 2
May crowning 1
Christmas gifts to elderly/needy families 2
Community donation/event 4
Funeral dinner 14
Fall dinner/soup supper 1
Coffee/Rolls 8
First Communion reception 7
Confirmation reception 4
Graduates reception/Senior Breakfast 5
Scholarships for graduates 2
Villa Marie donation 1
Parish Fish Fry 1
Advent baby shower for Wellspring/ABC pregnancy center(McCook) donations/Hope
Pregnancy center/Lenten Baby shower 7
Applefest meal/Hunters Breakfast/Lenten Breakfast 3
Summer pork loin meal fundraiser 1
Purchased new altar cloth/hosts for parish-1
St Gianna donations kitchen items 1
Served Wedding Reception 1
Apostles for Life/Cookie walk fundraiser($500.00) 4
Volunteer @ St Francis Gift/Thrift(Auburn) 1
Meals on Wheels 3monthsout of the year/Meals on Wheels 3
Fair food stand for 5 days in July-1
Donations to Carmelites, Franciscan and Marian and Pink Sisters-2
Donations to Birthright/baby shower 3
Donations to CSS 7
Bloodmobile (donate food & work and donate Blood) 7
Fundraiser for needy family- Fass family Benefit 1
Matt Talbot donate food/serve meals 5
St Patricks day dinner/fundraiser 1
Toys for tots(CSS) donation 1
Welcome new families reception 1
Crete Cares- 1
Back Pack Program 2
Lap Quilts./baby blanket/quilts donation 2
Fall Dinner 1
World Marriage day/recognize couples 50yr marriage with rose/meal and dance 5
Ulbrick Dinner-Annual Fundraiser drive thru served 400 meals /50 volunteers(300 hours -1
National Childrens Day/honored CCD teachers w/rose 4
Made/delivered 100 Blessing Bags to Homeless 2
Donated $1000.00 to local family in need 2
Bake Sales 1
Served Cookes at CCD open house/serve supper monthly to CCD students/parents 3
Altar Society serves Breakfast after Mass monthly 1
Church Cleaning/rectory garden mainenance 2
Altar Society members play organ/lead music 1
Donation of personal care items/food,groceries to Blue Valley Community Action(instead of
Christmas gift exchange) 2
Homebound honorary members were delivered a meal 1
Parish news for Register 1
Parish feast day reception/meal/dance 1
Pro life activity support/life chain 1
Partnered with Lions Club for gifts for local youth Christmas 1
Cash/Chamber Bucks given to seniors to have a Christmas 1
Donations to Waverly retreat house for new Curtains 1
Christmas Caroling 1
Drive thru Salad Luncheon Fundraiser 1
100th Birthday celebration for parishioner 1
Fall Dinner/Raffle/Auction w/Roast Beet 1
Send Cancelled stamps to Sister of Notra Dame 1
Summer CCD/totus Tuus 1
Christmas display of parish members to public/joint effort with local churches 1
Propagation of Faith donation 1
Gift newly baptized babies Holy Water Font 1