

COMMITTEES & SPECIAL ORGANIZATIONS

The lists of events and executive indicate but come nowhere near covering completely the countless hours put in by volunteers individually and as partners on various committees and groups. Parishioners contributed much time, effort and money to carry and maintain the parish spiritually, socially, physically, and financially.

The names of the executive committees suggest the scope of the areas covered in the parish life. There are/were crossover activities as groups and committees often worked jointly or helped other groups with activities.

Special organizations like Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus and St. Mary's Altar Society pre-dated the Parish Council by many years. Their volunteer efforts built and kept the parish going before and with parish councils.

Adult Education Committee

They set up a variety of education programs with guest speakers or person(s) to conduct workshops. About 1987, it was decided to reduce number of special programs that take busy parishioners away from home and family. They chose to concentrate more on educational articles in the *Entre Nous* and bringing in tapes and books into the library.

Church and Grounds Committee

Upon its inception with parish council in 1970, this committee found much that had to be done in the church, rectory and grounds. They were kept busy seeing that repairs and improvements were made to buildings and grounds.

Rectory: painted interior, replaced furniture and kitchen cupboards, upgraded the lighting, installed air conditioning

Church: painted interior, add/replaced rugs, varnished pews,

Exterior and yard: repaired sidewalks, fences and garage, paved parking lot, roof repairs and replacement, outside step railings, raised the grounds around the church, fair booth repair and maintenance.

Hall Committee

Installed dishwasher, add to/replace kitchen cupboards, add/replace rugs, paint interior, improve lighting, installed air-conditioning, repaired roof problems, repaired/replaced heating system, new clocks for upper and lower halls, worked at improving acoustics and sound system, worked at various approaches to keeping the operation viable and the asset to the Weyburn community and St. Vincent de Paul parish that it is.

Liturgical Committee

Liturgical committee was setup when the parish council was established in 1970. Its structure varied over the years being comprised of sub-committee groups that handled a variety of duties: Plan liturgical services for special occasions, especially Christmas and Easter; children's liturgy; banners; co-ordinate ministers of the Cup and Bread, Jr. and Sr. Acolytes, Prayers of the Faithful, lectors, and ministers of hospitality; various choirs.

Pastoral Care

Some activities and services carried out over the years: Take Communion to Weyburn General Hospital and shut-ins every Sunday; Eucharistic Mass at Souris Valley Saturdays; anointing of the sick at Souris Valley; a lay presided service or Eucharistic Mass celebrated with the residents in Bison Manor, Legion Towers, Crocus Villa, and Weyburn Special Care Home; after Mass in June and December coffee party held with the residents; religious calendars donated by CWL given to the shut-ins at Christmas; hospital visiting team once per week.

Social Justice

Horn of Plenty at Thanksgiving: articles collected and distributed.

Collection and distribution of food, clothing and furniture for the needy families before Christmas.

Collected and distributed children's clothing for Social Services

Attended Workshops on Child Abuse and Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

Involved with social justice issues with Development & Peace, Amnesty International, Restorative Justice.

Brought in refugee families.

Youth Group

The Youth Group (CYC) was established in October, 1970. The first executive were as follows: President - Rita Wanner, Treasurer - Wayne Wodzinski, Sec. - Odile Zaborowski, The group was small, being 12 members, but these were regular.

Since its inception, the Youth Club has been involved in many activities that were spiritual, social, and educational for themselves, St. Vincent de Paul parish and the community.

Some of the activities:

Fund Raisers: K of C bingos, raffles, walk-a-thons, worked at parish booth at Weyburn Fair and the Wheat Festival

Fun Activities: tobogganing, bowling, skating, pizza nights, scavenger hunts, dances, talent nights, gym nights, air band competitions, movie nights, games nights, McDonalds after Mass, suppers at McKenna, car rallies; tours of Big Muddy and Regina.

Service Projects: helped with Christmas Parties for parish children; fish pond during Crocus Daze at Pioneer Place; teas after Masses; helped cater for banquets and fall suppers; helped with Christmas hampers, gifts for needy children; visited seniors at Crocus Villa; helped with Advent ceremonies and crib setup; helped with Thanksgiving food hampers

Spiritual & Educational: Masses, Advent and Lenten meetings at member's homes; Days of Recollection and Retreats; attended and sponsored Youth Conferences; attended Family Life conferences; held various prayer services such as Sharing Groups, Grateful Journals, Group Prayers, Thanksgiving Prayer, Popcorn Prayer, "You Are Special" story, "The Tale of Three Trees" story, "The Voice" story, etc; held various Lenten activities, including Journey to Forgiveness and Compassion workshop, Stations of the Cross, making small nail crosses, etc.; had guest speakers like Joe Gunn on "Third World", Chico Ramirez on Latin America, Bev Alexander on "Trip to Mexico"; attended and sponsored various Youth Rallies.

Catholic Women's League

"The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a national organization rooted in gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God." This is the mission of our organization.

We seek the spiritual development of our members and the betterment of others through social action. We encourage and support the development of Christian values throughout society and in particular within the family. We communicate our views on topics of local and national importance (such as: euthanasia, abortion, sex education in schools, pornography) to all levels of government, society and church. We also provide for development of Christian companionship among women and encourage our members to take part in religious, charitable and community activities. The League helps to develop leadership in our members and enhances the role of women in the church.

The CWL was started nationally in June of 1920, just two years after women were given the right to vote. It was started as a result of the need to help with the task of settling thousands of immigrants coming to Canada. The Catholic women were the only ones not going to be represented at a meeting between the government and other national women's organizations, so Bellelles Guerin, our first national president, got the Catholic women organized nationally and seven provinces were represented at that meeting. Presently, we have 110,000 members nationally. We are affiliated with the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations. The patroness of our League is the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

The St. Vincent de Paul Council was formed October 28, 1926 and became a charter member April 9, 1931. We currently have 123 members. Our charter President was Mrs. Conine Vandendriessche. One of our charter members, Mrs. Gertrude Hoeving still resides in Weyburn. We meet the first Monday of each month at 8:00 PM at McKenna Hall. Our business meetings are preceded by a short spiritual program, followed by a lunch, program and socializing. All women over 16 years of age may join the League

Our members are very active. Some are leaders in the church and community. We take part in all aspects of the church liturgy serving as readers, acolytes, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, choir members, taking communion to and visiting the sick and shut-ins, leading Bible study classes, preparing funeral lunches, working at banquets at McKenna Hall. Some are active on Parish Council, school boards and Parent-Teacher Associations.

Financially we support our schools and church. St. Dominic Savio received money to paint a classroom and we support the Milk Program. St. Michael's received assistance for their gym floor and we sponsor two basketball scholarships and a proficiency medal for their awards night. Our church has received financial assistance for repairs to the church and for the building fund. Two scholarships are given to two grads from the Comprehensive, and as well we helped finance Challenge '95 which was presented at our schools (re: sex education). We support Development and Peace, Eskimo, Coady Institute, Pro-Life, Teen Aid, Breast Cancer Research Birthright, Sofia House, Mother Theresa and Scarborough Missions.

Knights of Columbus Council #1731

The Knights of Columbus was established by Fr. McGivney, a young parish priest from New Haven, Connecticut. He had two objectives: First, to promote closer ties of fraternalism among Catholic men so they would remain steadfast in their faith; second, to develop a system of insurance so that the widows and children of the members who died wouldn't be left in financial difficulty.

The Knights of Columbus had been established in Canada for 17 years before World War I broke upon a startled world in the fall of 1914. Weyburn Council was formed shortly before the outbreak, bringing the number of councils to five in Saskatchewan.

Weyburn Council was instituted April 17th, 1914, receiving its Charter April 21st, 1917 with Brother J. McBride being the first Grand Knight. They remained active until 1938 when the depression forced it to cease functioning.

Br. Felix Becker, Br. Bruno Tourigny (Grand Knight), Msgr. Janssen (parish priest), council chaplain and others were instrumental in re-organizing the former Weyburn Council. They regained their Charter October 21st, 1949 and decided to hold regular meetings on the second and fourth Monday of every month.

In the fall of 1951, the Knights hosted a light-weight boxing social to provide funds to furnish a room in the new Union Hospital, in December 1952 built an outdoor rink for the Catholic school and in December 1953, the profits of a television raffle were presented to the church building fund, along with numerous other future pledges.

After some negotiation, in June of 1953, between Rev. Sisters of the Cross of Forget and the City of Weyburn re: purchasing the old hospital for use as an old folks home (Mt. St. Mary's), the Knights transported the Sisters from Forget to Mt. St. Mary's.

January 1955, a sub council was formed in Cedoux. May 31st, 1956 a member of the Weyburn Council, Br. Stan Slezak, was ordained to the priesthood, and Rev. Fr. R.J. McKenna was named Council Chaplain September 13th, 1956. Also in the spring of 1956, the Knights erected signs along the highways at the city entrances, announcing mass times.

December 1965, the Knights sponsored and formed the 3rd Weyburn Scouting Movement and decided that their major fundraiser would be annual bottle drives.

Tribune sub-council application was approved on February 14th, 1966 and in the fall of 1966 the Knights of Columbus were instrumental in forming the Kenosee Boys and Girls Camp and support it to this day.

January 25th, 1970 the 4th degree Bishop Klein Assembly received their Charter.

The spring of 1981, the Knights decided to purchase and install some new playground equipment for the St. Dominic School as a Knights of Columbus 1981-82 Centennial project.

The Knights went ahead with plans to switch the parish bingo to dabber bingo in May of 1988.

In April of 1989, the Knights provided money and manpower to rejuvenate the old Mt. St. Mary's park at Signal Hill, as their 75th Anniversary Project. They celebrated their 75th anniversary as a Council on September 9th, 1989.

In May of 1994, the Knights hosted the State Golf tournament in conjunction with the council's 80th Anniversary celebration.

Over the years the Knights have been involved in supporting and raising funds for activities and groups such as Pro-Life, Birthrite, United Way Communiton, Special Olympics, Mental Health, Church and Hall development, Jubilee Park development, second ice surface, parade float, minor ball and hockey, Youth Parliament, fair booth, support of the Separate Schools, Seminarians, Youth Group, vocations, Mother Theresa's House, Kenosee Boys and Girls Camp, communion to shut-ins, retreats, and many more too numerous to mention. The Knights of Columbus have contributed to our parish and community spiritually, physically and financially.

St. Mary's Altar Society: 1922-1995

St. Mary's Altar Society was first organized in 1922. Members focused their efforts on reducing the parish debt. During 1923, they decorated the interior and exterior of the church and raised funds for the completion of the murals in the church.

The group was later re-activated in May, 1930 at the home of Mrs. Elodie Garner with Fr. Galvin as directing pastor. The executive was E. Garner, C. Borschowa, G. Killein and A. Dumouchel. The ministry of this group was to care for and supply the needs of the altar. We met twice a month for prayer and fellowship. Currently we have 43 members, of whom 20 are over 80 years old.

Caring for the needs of the altar included maintaining the sacristy, providing flowers for the sanctuary, and supplying clean linens for the altar. Care for the altar boys' cassocks was also provided.

Various fund raising events were held with an innovative flare. These included social tea parties, raffles, whist drives, and sales of handcrafted fancy work. Catering funeral lunches from 1965 to 1990 was initiated for members and later expanded to minister to any parishioners who requested it. The kind, festive spirit of fellowship was also enjoyed at fowl suppers. This always seemed to be a popular event. St. Mary's Altar Society was the main caterer from 1965-85. Later, parish catering (1985-89) was done cooperatively with the Catholic Women's League and was organized as McKenna Catering. The head convenor was Leona Warnecke. Other convenors were Joy Janeczko, Mary Krumenacker, Joan Stellick, and Sadie Zimmerman.

During the years 1955 to 1995, St. Mary's Altar Society contributed \$286,900.00 to St. Vincent de Paul parish. Some of these funds were used to obtain the parish photocopier and video equipment. A stained glass window in the chapel was also installed as part of our ministry. Numerous other charitable causes benefited from the efforts of our members. These include Bosco Homes, Pro-Life and the children of the separate schools. Others include Chem Free Grad, Rwanda Relief, SAAD, and a Wreath for Cenotaph.

Some of the latest (1990-91) contributions of St. Mary's Altar Society are four covered ciboria, a chalice and paten. Alice DeLaet painted a beautiful banner of our Blessed Lady that is displayed in May, October and at mass before our meetings.

Honoring Mary, the blessed mother of our Lord in contemplative prayer became a daily activity in 1967. The Traveling Rosary was initiated. This activity consisted of praying the rosary in the homes of St. Mary's Altar Society members. There is always at least one member who has meditated upon the rosary on any given day. This is the case even to this day.

St. Mary's also leads praying of the rosary in May and October and is involvement in the Living Rosary and Stations of the Cross.

Our aging, dedicated members, (eldest is 98, 20 others are 80 or older) faithfully attend monthly noon mass, lunch and meeting, form a guard of honor at funerals of members and continue to lend support at funeral lunches. 107 funeral lunches were served from 1990-94

Concern for the sick: Take the Eucharist to the sick and shut-ins. We visit the sick at the Union Hospital, those in the nursing homes and in their own homes (1886 visiting hours 1990-95). We entertain SVECH and nursing home guests in our own homes. We contribute and deliver CARE parcels to needy people – those that we are aware of - at Christmas time. Our Christmas party is shared with our spouses.

From 1990-94, with contributions from the CWL, St. Dominic Savio School and parishioners, we packed and delivered Christmas hampers to the known needy of our parish.

1990-95 We remember our 80 year old and over members with a birthday card. Our 50 year, 40 year and 25 year anniversary celebrants are remembered with bouquets. Get well cards and sympathy cards are also sent to members.

By Mary Krumenacker, from 1996 Parish Directory.

St. Mary's Altar Society 1995-2004

Our society continued to operate honoring our previous commitments and we also responded to the local requests as needs were recognized. We celebrated our 70th anniversary in 2000 and we were pleased to carry on honoring our mandate (altar needs) as well as continuing to supply the religious articles for parish convenience.

The 2002-2003 years were difficult in that we became increasingly aware that with our aged and declining membership we were unable to provide the continuing service from our group. We served approximately 20 funerals a year at this time and oft times with the help of the parish ladies. The CWL ladies would fill in for us when we were unable to provide the service. Sensing a need, a meeting between St. Mary's Altar Society, Catholic Women's League and Parish Council representatives resulted in an amalgamated effort to serve funeral lunches by way of parish groups.

St. Mary's Altar Society in 2004 was operating on existing funds. We could no longer function as the service group we were known to be for over 70 years. After much discussion, on May 5, 2004, the ladies voted to cease to operate at this time while we were still able to provide for needs of our parish.

With that in mind, on June 8, 2004, \$2000.00 was given to St. Vincent de Paul Parish for the purchase of hall chairs. A further and last disbursement of \$8814.13 was given towards a stained glass window with the condition that a plaque be made commemorating the years of service St. Mary's Altar Society gave to the parish and area.

On Jun 23, 2004, the books were closed on this organization of dedicated ladies and members. They will be remembered for their love of God through their service and their love of our Holy Mother through their prayers dedication, always promoting the rosary. Always exemplary in the lasting friendships they created, may they all find their well-deserved rest in God's care.

By Anne Gutzke, written for this book, 2006

Sisters of Charity of St. Louis

In August 1981 the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis sent two Sisters to Weyburn, Sisters Laurette Tessier and Clem Liboiron. The parish provided them with a house on Fourth Street, just behind the rectory. The Sisters helped prepare people for the lay ministry, conducted classes for baptism, assisted the lay ministry in the missions, and helped with the adult catechumenate program. Sister Laurette, who stayed only one year, conducted the folk mass choir. In 1983 Sister Rita Fritz joined Sister Clem. Both left in 1985. [from Archdiocese 75 yr history pg 428]

In Weyburn, their immediate work was:

- MUSIC, especially the folk variety. Sr. Laurette conducted the folk mass choir.
- the formation of a team to work on the initiation of children (baptism, in particular, and, in association with Sr. Vivina, confirmation and First Eucharist)
- for Halbrite and Cedoux, but also for Weyburn, help for those who preside and preach in the absence of a priest.

Sister Clem, Sr. Laurette then Rita worked as Deanery Workers until end June 1984. Then Sr. Clem & Rita shared job of St. Vincent Parish Worker from Sept/84 until their departure in Sept/85.

Sisters of Loretto

Monsignor A. J. Janssen (R.I.P.) invited the Sisters of Loretto in 1943 to teach catechism classes during the summer. In 1950 the Sisters were invited to take over the former rectory of the parish and to convert it into classrooms for a private school. Four seminarians - Norman Andries, Leonard Sullivan, Stan Slezak and Arthur Vandendriesche came to the rescue and helped the sisters scrubbing old desks in readiness for class use. On the opening day, 76 pupils registered for Grades One to Eight. There were two boarders to begin with: Rosie Schmidt for Grade 8 and Dianne Warneke for Grade I, and as winter came on Marilyn Snoxell for Grade 3 and Lynda Honig for Grade I joined the boarders. The first teachers were Mother Beatrice, Superior, and principal, Mother Margaret Mary, Sister Mary Vincent and Sister Francis Xavier.

A new classroom was built in the basement of the hall to accommodate Grades 8-9-10. This was the beginning of Loretto High School. In 1953 Grade Eleven was added - another step towards the completion of a Catholic High School. For the fall of 1955, the temporary arrangement for students was three classrooms in the convent building, four classrooms in the parish hall and one classroom in the

sacristy of the Church. Grade 12 was added this year offering a complete education from Grade I - 12 in a Catholic school at Weyburn. The name of the school chosen by the Board of Trustees was "St. Dominic Savio School." The first graduate to receive her entire Catholic education in Weyburn was Sally Tourigny, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Tourigny of Weyburn.

April 9, 1956 was another 'highlight day' in the history of Catholic education in Weyburn, as the children assembled for the first time in the new St. Dominic Savio School. The sisters of Loretto have been teaching there ever since, instructing students in academic subjects, training them in self-discipline, and helping them to realize their duties towards God, their neighbour and themselves, and to adore God in spirit and in truth.

In 1962 St. Michael School opened and the sisters continued to teach there until 1971 when Sister Vivina left the teaching staff to begin her new ministry as Associate Sister in St. Vincent De Paul Parish.

Excerpted from article written by Sisters Benedicta Fahlman, Alida De Freitas, Theresa Frey, and Vivina Deck for the 30 years of service in Weyburn celebration.

Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross

Sisters of Our Lady of the Cross came in 1953, took over the old hospital building on south hill, opened it as hospital and senior home "Mount St. Mary's".

They operated Mount St. Mary's until 1970 when it was taken over by the Weyburn Town and Country Housing Corporation. The last Sister to work at St. Mary's left in 1985. In 1982 the provincial government began planning a new facility to replace Mount St. Mary's. The old building was sold and converted into an arts centre.