

THE NEW ST. MONICA COMMUNITY 2006-2007
The Fun and Meaningful Ways We've Lived Our Mission

WE ARE A RESURRECTION PEOPLE

- Confirmed our new unified faith community name and identity (the *NEW* St. Monica) by means of a parish-wide process
- Emmanuel Church of the Deaf established worship and office space at New St. Monica.
- Parish Census undertaken with updates of combined parish registry
- Created collaboratively our new Vision and Mission statements which are read to ground us at all parish meetings.
- Church interior space reorganized temporarily with improved seating and storage. Baptistry available for parish use again
- Transportation arrangements made for members attending worship & social activities
- Standing parish committees (Buildings, Finance, Facilitation and Liturgy teams) developed mission statements and improved communication and cooperation
- History of former parishes preserved in archives with ongoing processing
- Sacred artifacts from former parishes organized, photographed and catalogued with procedures in place for finding “new homes”
- A new “ReCreation” ministry began with “fun social activities” including parish attendance at a Red Wings baseball game.
- The *First Annual St. Monica Music Fest* was an activity generated by an idea from a Parish Meeting and carried out mostly by parishioners.
- The “*Roamin' Cats*” concluded a busy, fun and competitive softball season
- Parish website re-started and enhanced, reflecting how we are an active and welcoming community.
- Photographs of parish activities displayed in back of church regularly
- Financial information shared and explained at meetings open to all parishioners

ROOTED IN OUR RICH CATHOLIC HERITAGE, WE ARE GROWING IN THE SPIRIT,
AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A FAITH COMMUNITY

- New processes developed for leadership with active participation at monthly Parish Meetings. Minutes shared on corkboard and website.
- Name tags facilitated getting to know each other and newcomers
- Hospitality Ministry expanded with varied roles to welcome all warmly
- Community Table reorganized for socializing over coffee and refreshments regularly
- Parishioners joined in planning process for our church renovation with a focus on greater accessibility and hospitality
- Creative ideas and activities flowing from parishioner interest and initiative were empowered (e.g. Christmas caroling, Red Wings baseball game, Annual Music Fest)
- Adult Faith Formation activities, drawing upon parishioner interest survey and suggestions, now underway
- Homily preparation and background sessions available weekly to all parishioners
- Focus group explored participation in Black Catholic Conference
- Rectory space made available for Religious Education and Scouting programs
- *Caribbean Mass* and *Yellow Mass* (taxi drivers) celebrated unique groups
- *Vacation Bible School* reached out to parish and neighborhood

WE ANSWER THE CALL TO LIVE OUT OUR BAPTISMAL VOCATION WITHIN OUR DAILY LIVES, BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST'S PRESENCE TO OUR FAMILIES, WORKPLACES, NEIGHBORHOODS AND THE WORLD

- Two vibrant music groups created joyful liturgical celebrations
- New parish brochure designed to inform and welcome newcomers
- New banners and signs displayed to identify who we are as a new and welcoming community
- Visual barriers removed and garden space enhanced to brighten our presence on Genesee Street.
- Cards with parish information sent to local colleges, hotels, etc.
- *Wrap & Run* served as an evangelization and fundraising opportunity.
- Two *Legion of Mary* groups incorporated spirituality, evangelization and visiting shut-ins
- The Portuguese Community at the New St. Monica brought devotion to Mary within our neighborhood
- Social Ministry reorganized as an umbrella group addressing: 1) Neighborhood Needs; 2) Youth at Risk; 3) Consistent Life Ethic; 4) Global Social Justice and 5) Environmental Stewardship
- Social Ministry maintained contact with former parish neighborhoods through participation in grassroots advocacy groups and service projects.
- Social Ministry members participated in *Community Forum on Violence*.
- Dialogue with *Interfaith Action* continued
- *Quiltmakers* group crafted quilts and blankets for special needs
- *Mercy Bridges* adult literacy program based at parish rectory
- *Blooming Optimists* ministry developed garden at western portal of Susan B. Anthony Preservation District and created a garden with greenspace at Brown & Saxton Streets. Fifteen neighborhood gardens maintained along Brown Street.
- Dynamic new ministry formed, *Creation Stewards*, to raise consciousness of our faith-based global and environmental responsibilities (showed *An Inconvenient Truth* video with pizza and discussion; CFL light bulb promotion; ink cartridge recycling; soda bottle recycling and two ongoing composting demonstration projects)
- Outreach efforts in the neighborhood (luminaries event commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., *Annual Music Fest*, support of SWAN's *FRESH* food stand project, etc.)
- Donations of toiletry items and blankets plus volunteerism served St. Peter's Kitchen
- Hosted neighborhood organization events (UofR nutritional outreach lecture, Sector 4 Public Safety forums, Brooks Landing celebration, NeighborWorks outreach, Genesee Street floral planter activity, etc.)
- Church bulletin arrangements modified to permit inclusion of information at a later date, with upcoming new heading to reflect our roots as well as our new identity and mission

WE DARE TO LIVE THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST,
TRANSFORMING DISCOURAGEMENT INTO HOPE,
FEAR INTO LOVE,
ISOLATION INTO COMMUNITY

New Saint Monica
Year in Review: Sept. 1, 2007- Aug. 31, 2008

September 2007:

- Parish Meeting Topic: “*Growing the Parish*” (membership, outreach, programs & finance)
- Fr. Ray Fleming’s *25th Anniversary* Mass and celebration
- St. Monica Parish is the *monthly* host for Sector Four Public Safety meetings throughout the year

October:

- *Parish Finance Forums* 10/2/07 (afternoon and evening)
- Parish Meeting Topic: “*Ideas to Action*”; (how to get parishioner-driven interests to become actual in terms of activities, faith formation topics or ministries; focus on core group of supporters)
- *St. Francis Protector of the Environment* commemoration (evening) ; afternoon prayer service
- *Welcoming Brunch* for new parishioners (10/14/07)
- Parish Retreat: *Lay Participation and the Work of the People* at St. Bernard’s Institute (co-planned by Social Ministry and Liturgy)
- *Bloomin’ Optimists & St. Monica Youth Group* community service at Brown & Saxton Streets
- Facilitation Team develops protocols with parish staff to guide parishioner involvement.
- Joint Meeting of Finance Council and Facilitation Team (studying successful parish growth models)
- Pew Card informational brochures developed
- *Our Lady of Fatima* procession

November:

- Parish census update process underway (Diocese has obsolete data); identify transportation needs.
- Parish Meeting Topic: *Reunion Mass: What it Means to Be a Welcoming Community*
- *Reunion Mass* 11/18/07 (former faith communities and people not seen for awhile)
- Adult Faith Formation: *Clutter & Spirituality*; presenter: Diane Zielinski; two evening sessions
- ***Wrap & Run*** gift-wrapping & evangelizing (through Christmas)

December:

- Parish Meeting: *Updates and Introduction to Interest Group Process (Ideas to Reality)*
- Adult Faith Formation topic: ***Finding the True Meaning of Christmas; presenter: Sue Staropoli***
- Creation Stewards prayer service: Care of the Environment (evening)
- Christmas Caroling in the neighborhood
- Advent activities and church decoration

January:

- Completion of digital photo catalog of the combined parish artifacts (to aid eventual distribution)
- Parish Meeting Topic: *Living Out our Baptismal Call* (family / workplace / neighborhood & world)
- Adult Faith Formation: *Understanding Deaf Culture: An Introduction* (3 sessions)
- Initial news of St. Monica School Closing: focus on school community’s response
- Joint Planning Session for Lent (Liturgy, Social Ministry and Facilitation Team)
- Diocese of Brooklyn Pastoral Planning : Marilyn Catherine & Sue Staropoli are presenters.

February:

- Adult Faith Formation : *Sickness, Dying , Death and Grieving*: presented by Roslyn Karaban
- *Enviorama*: interactive hands-on opportunities to learn about stewardship of the environment

- Parish Meeting: *Healing Within Our Lives* (Lenten theme)
- Viewing of *Sisters of Selma* (sponsored by Black Catholic Enrichment Committee)
- Hearing Loop installation
- Father Ray presents Buildings Renovation proposals to the Diocesan Consultors
- Grant-Writers Group begins with help from Kate Kuholski of the UofR (3 options studied)
- “*Beat the Blahs*” party at the rectory
- Pastoral response to school closing

March:

- Soup Supper at start of Lenten season
- *Parishioner Forums* on the St. Monica School Closing (afternoon and evening sessions)
- Empowerment of parishioners to take active role seeking alternative use of the school
- Initial discussions for a *Westside Farmers’ Market* using the St. Monica parking lot
- Hosting of NeighborWorks parents & children for movies at the rectory (& May also)
- Black Catholic Enrichment Committee hosts a showing of *The Lilies of the Field*
- Parish Forums on the School replaced Parish Meeting for this month

April:

- Parish Meeting: *Spirit Alive!* video (a Diocesan spiritual revitalization initiative)
- Adult Faith Formation: *Spirituality in the Workplace* presented by Frank Staropoli
- Personal contacts regarding school reuse options; site visitation by several groups
- West Side Farmers’ Market planning leads to approval for St. Monica parking lot as host site.
- Parish involvement in City’s *Clean Sweep* efforts in city’s southwest
- *Blooming Optimist* and St. Monica Youth Group performs lawn installation at Bull’s Head
- Parishioners visit *Healthy Home* educational project for “green” & healthy living education
- Installation of power-assisted handicapped access doors at parking lot entrance; doors refurbished.
- Buildings Renovation Group presents Renovation plans to Diocesan Buildings Commission
- New garden opposite Monica St. uses seedlings grown from soil made by Fr. Ray’s Worm Factory

May:

- Parish Meeting: Showing of *Spirit Alive!* video (personal relationship with Jesus segment)
- Adult Faith Formation: *The Lord’s Prayer: Radical & Relevant ...Then and Now*; presenter Fr. Ray
- *Our Lady of Fatima* procession
- *Spirit Alive!* Interest Group forms; has follow-on meetings
- A faith-sharing group meets on Wednesdays after Mass for a 4-session interval.
- Logistical preparations for Farmers’ Market; fabric bag for Market made with parish support.
- Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative visits church and inspects acoustics.
- School Reuse Task Force continues site visits, personal contacts and consultation with Diocese.
- Parish acquires a DVD projection system from a donor.
- St. Monica Parish receives faith-based community award from 19th Ward Community Association

June:

- One finalist remains for school reuse; basic lease prepared; further fine-tuning of agreements.
- Grantwriting Team focuses on Raskob Foundation grant
- Westside Farmers’ Market opens
- Parish Meeting : Updates on School, Buildings Renovation and Finance
- St. Monica School closes; last graduation class

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- All school records for St. Monica, Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Augustine and Ss. Peter & Paul sorted, assembled and forwarded to Diocese; St. Monica School Archives now located at rectory
- Joint Facilitation Team-Finance Team meeting to discuss progress on the Intentional Growth Plan

July and August:

- Combined Planning Session for Advent 2008 (Music / Liturgy / Facilitation Team)
- Promoting West Side Farmers' Market at five neighborhood health fairs / special events
- School lease finalized
- New St. Monica at Red Wings
- Vacation Bible School "*Mission Possible!*"
- *Legion of Mary* at St. Monica celebrates its 3,300th !!! meeting (consecutive & unbroken)

Active Ministries, Committees and Programs during September 2007 - August 31st, 2008

- *Adult Faith Formation*
- *Airport Seniors* social group
- *Bible Study*
- *Black Catholic Enrichment Committee*
- *Bloomin' Optimists (landscaping vacant lots)*
- *Boy Scouts*
- *Buildings Renovation Group*
- *Care Cards* (keeping in touch with homebound)
- *Church Cleaning Ministry*
- *Community Table* (refreshments after Sunday Mass)
- *Communications & Website*
- *Creation Stewards (environmental awareness)*
- *CYO* (sports programs for neighborhood youth; hosted by St. Monica)
- *Deacon-in-Training site*
- *Facilitation Team*
- *Finance Team*
- *First Friday Breakfast*
- *Flowers & Grounds*
- *Grantwriters*
- *40-Week Club* fundraising and dinner
- *Hospitality Ministry*

Active Ministries, Committees and Programs during September 2007 - August 31st, 2008

(continued)

- *Legion of Mary*: afternoon group
- *Legion of Mary*: evening group
- *Liturgical Ministry (lectors, servers, Bread & Cup)*
- *Mercy Bridges* literacy tutoring program
- *Monthly Public Safety Meetings* (hosting)
- *Music Ministry* (two choirs)
- *New Parishioner Orientation*
- *Office Support*
- *Our Lady of Fatima Devotions*
- *Parish Archives* (St. Augustine, Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Monica, Ss. Peter & Paul)
- *Parish Meetings* monthly opportunity for parishioner input to guide parish direction
- *Quilt Ministry*
- *Religious Education for Youth*
- *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults*
- *Saint Peter's Kitchen* (volunteerism and support)
- *Social Ministry*
- *Spirit Alive!* (Diocesan program applied to parish interests & needs)
- *SWEM food basket support*
- *Vacation Bible School*
- *Westside Farmers' Market* hosting and support
- *Wrap & Run (Christmas fundraiser & evangelization)*
- *Younger / Older* social group
- *Youth Group*