



Women of St. Margaret Mary

Meeting Minutes from January 13, 2024

- I. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Welcome Visitors and New Members – Women were welcomed to the meeting. There were no new members or visitors this month.
- III. Birthdays in January – The following women of St. Margaret Mary will be celebrating their birthdays in January: Karen Parsons on January 15, LeAnn Wilson on January 16, Claudia Graham on January 23, Jennifer Tachenko on January 25 and Jennifer Crowley on January 30. Happy Birthday!!
- IV. Treasurer’s Report – Judy Clyne
 - As of January 12, 2024 our checking account balance is \$764.41. We have one outstanding check at this time for the purchase of a badge.
 - Happy Dollars for December was \$45.
 - Any woman 18 years old and a parishioner are eligible to join. Dues are \$25 and checks should be made payable to Women of St. Margaret Mary. Cash is always accepted.
 - Name badges are \$15.50. The Women’s Group pays for the shipping.
- V. Reflection – Claudia Graham

Claudia shared a meditation from Robert Cardinal Sarah, an excerpt from “The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise”. She followed that with questions and discussion about discernment. What is God’s will for my life? This is a key question to which every Christian must seek an answer but, unfortunately, many people do not even ask this question. The question may arise at certain times in your life when major decisions are being made. A call to the religious life? To get married? Accepting a job? Having another child? Moving to another place? Life is full of choices, therefore, learning to discern God’s will in the more monumental decisions in life will also help in the smaller and even daily decisions in life. Some daily decisions do not require a drawn-out process of discernment, but all decisions should ultimately be guided by discernment.

You must say “Yes” to the will of God even before you know what it is that He asks of you. It is essential that you are willing to do whatever the Lord asks of you. This fundamental disposition of making yourself completely available to the will of God, and surrendered to the fulfillment of God’s will, must embody who you are.

Pray daily for the grace of knowing and understanding God's will. Consider the teaching of Saint Ignatius on discerning the will of God.

VI. Leadership

- When Kim Rovinski had to step down as the Chairperson of the Women's Group due to illness, Claudia Graham temporarily filled that position, asking women to pray about their role in becoming the Chairperson. Jane Blanc has volunteered to take over the leadership of our group. Jane will facilitate the meetings and take over administration responsibilities while LeAnn Wilson will coordinate events, trips, etc. Jane expressed her thanks to Claudia for the important role she played for the Women's Group.
- Additionally, the minutes to the Women's Group can be found on the St. Margaret Mary website.

VII. Poinsettias – Women were invited to take home the poinsettias used to decorate the church for Christmas.

VIII. Next month

- Valentine cards will be signed and sent to our homebound members. This is usually done for Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter as well as a card for "summer".
- Mission – We will discuss why we exist and what we are here for. We are a service to the parish.
- Current Women's Group ministries – We will review our current ministries. We have quite a few and they are important.
- Ministry Sign-Up – We will have ministry sign-ups. Everyone can learn more about the ministry and sign-up for what they can do.

IX. Miscellaneous

- The pilgrimage to Queen of Peace Monastery in Rutherfordton, NC, which was originally planned for last November is still on schedule. More information will follow.
- Women should let LeAnn Wilson and Jane Blanc know of interest in doing things, events, taking trips, etc. Women were advised that they can reach the leadership of the Women's Group by sending an email to the following address: StMargaretMary1936@gmail.com
- Due to Beverly Penland's recent illness there will be a significant hole in the ministries she performs. Specifically, she is the sacristan at the 8:30 am and daily Masses, she launders the altar linens and brings the Eucharist to the homebound. Women were asked to discern these ministries to determine if they are anything you may be able to do. They are important and spiritual roles. Training will be given to anyone interested.
- A handout entitled, "Can There Be Christian Feminism?" was distributed. This is a follow-up to the session we had with Pat Black in February and March, 2023, viewing the film "Unprotected – A Pope, the Pill and the Perils of Sexual Chaos".

X. Closing Prayer