



## **Women of St. Margaret Mary Meeting Minutes from July 13, 2024**

- I. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Welcome Visitors and New Members – After visiting last month Dianne Gilliland returned and has been welcomed as a new member. Gail Summers was visiting today; however, she will be leaving the parish soon to work for the Diocese of Kansas City.
- III. Birthdays in July – The following women of St. Margaret Mary will be celebrating birthdays in July: Maureen Czarnecki on July 2 and Phyllis Benbow on July 22. Happy birthday!
- IV. Treasurer's Report – Judy Clyne
  - Judy expressed appreciation for the beautiful luncheon following John's funeral, as well as the cards, Masses and personal notes. She put \$200 in the Happy Dollars jar in thanks for the support and love she has received from our group.
  - The checking account balance as of July 12, 2024 is \$1440.18. There are no outstanding checks at this time.
  - Happy Dollars for June was \$60.16.
  - The Women of St. Margaret Mary always welcome new members who are 18 years old and a parishioner. Dues are \$25 for the year.
  - Name badges are \$15.50. The Women's Group pays for the shipping. Judy will be ordering name badges around Tuesday of this week. If anyone needs one they are requested to let Judy know.
  - The Women's Group approved a donation of \$200 for the Parish Life Commission to assist with the cost of the Tourists game on August 27.
  - The parish budget is being finalized for the start of the year on July 1. It must be sent to the Bishop by July 31. There is a line item created for Bereavement, which is paid by the parish. The women approved a tithe of \$200 per year to assist in this expense. Claudia will talk to Father Cook about it.
- V. Reflection – Claudia Graham, Cecelia Meredith and Maureen Czarnecki
  - Two members of the Women's Group travelled to Lourdes, France recently. Claudia shared an overview of the apparition seen by Bernadette Soubirous when she was 14 years old, was in the grotto and saw the Blessed Mother. The Blessed Mother told Bernadette to drink and wash in the spring, where there never was water before. The Blessed Mother told Bernadette to tell the priest to build a church there. The priest had great doubts until Bernadette told him Mary told her she was the Immaculate Conception. The priest was astonished and convinced. Bernadette became Sister Marie-Bernarde. She died on April 16, 1879 when she was 35 years old and was canonized on December 8, 1933 by Pope Pius XI.

- Cecelia Meredith went to Lourdes as a medical pilgrim as she has an incurable disease. She didn't know what to expect. The first day they were blessed by the Bishop of Lourdes. She found daily Mass at many places, daily evening rosaries, flags from around the world, woke up to Angelus prayers every morning and Ave Maria heard over and over again in many languages. She experienced three instances where she began shaking, lost sense of time, couldn't move, became cold and shivered and cried uncontrollably. Prayer petitions were placed at Mary's feet. Millions of Catholics gave her hope with their hope.
- Maureen Czarnecki went to Lourdes as a volunteer. She relayed her husband went last year and came back a changed man. There was an intense presence of holiness, but reminded us we don't have to go to Lourdes to experience Christ and the presence of our lady. Volunteering includes long hours but being around pilgrim leaders, volunteers and pilgrims is very humbling. She would like to go back. It's very expensive but there are scholarships available (Andrea's Wish). She provided a list of books and links to webpages, videos and a Facebook page all recommended by the North American Volunteers of Lourdes. Miracles can be prayed for, but don't expect them. God gives us graces. She explained the water from the grotto is not holy water. One drop is all you need. She also brought a number of books for the women to look at.

#### VI. Parish Hall Stewardship Opportunities – Maureen Czarnecki

Brother Cassion has cancer and is very weak. He is back to work on a limited basis. One person is needed per week to help keep the Parish Hall clean during the week, especially after events. There are crumbs on the floor and chairs and the floors need sweeping and vacuuming. Volunteers can coordinate with others to pick a time to come when the Parish Hall is not in use. A signup sheet was circulated.

#### VII. Tourist Game – LeAnn Wilson

The parish Tourist game is on August 27. This is the first outing since Covid. A flock note will be sent out for parishioners to order tickets. The Knights of Columbus, the Hispanic Ministry and the Women's Group are raising funds to keep the costs down. A signup sheet was circulated to sell tickets after all Masses next weekend. A separate signup sheet was circulated for women interested in participating in a bake sale. Details on the bake sale are not known at this time.

#### VIII. Rachel's Vineyard Fall Retreat – November 1 through 3

This is a retreat for women and men who have been touched by abortion, including grandparents. They have needs but are not depending on our parish to do it all. All participants receive a prayer shawl/blanket when they go. It is a healing event. Claudia will also send information to the rest of the parish to help. Some needs are chocolate, good quality rosaries and, perhaps, a spiritual bouquet to pray that weekend behind the scenes. She will let Lorena know what we can provide.

#### IX. Miscellaneous

- Pam Murphy, Debbie Howell and Alison Curtin recently did some work at the Queen of Peace Monastery in Rutherfordton. It was hard work, doing yard work and light housekeeping. It can only be done on Mondays or Tuesdays after 10:30 am. Pam is asking if there is interest from anyone in helping with this.
- Father Cook will say Mass on July 23, then will be gone the rest of the week. He will be back for the Saturday vigil.

#### X. Closing Prayer