BEAUTY ALIVE – EVENT NOTES

MARSHALLTOWN – St. Henry (September 14, 2017):

- **Eucharistic Adoration** for **Vocations**
- **Mom’s Group** – 6:00 AM
  - Meet to **pray** together
  - **Discuss relevant topics**
  - Keep **spirituality** in mind
- People don’t always want to “join.”
- **Study Club** – has gone from more social to a **more formal study** (women, saints, doctors of the church)
  - Cross
  - Parishes
  - Lives
- **Study Group** – starts with **rosary**, program, **saints**, food, **service project**
- Groups don’t always let people know what the groups are doing.
- Talked about having a ministry “fair” to know what is available.
- **Adventure Bible Study** (men and women)
- **Psalms Study** (men and women)
- What would draw you to something – Childcare
- **7 Steps to Financial Freedom**
- St. Henry’s **ACCW**
- Think about times for meetings – 6:00 AM/noon lunch hour
- **Sing Chaplet** – 5:15 PM – Church
- People don’t read bulletin
- **Online Bible Study**
- **CEW** looking for links & resources
- I never knew things were happening – I was never invited. The importance of an invitation.
- Have an older woman start a **Bible Study** for younger women: always host, provide snacks, lead study making it easy for young moms
- Women **gather online** for a study every Sunday night at 8:00 p.m. for one hour.

CEDAR FALLS – St. Patrick (September 19, 2017):

- Waverly – 2-3 women who have revitalized Mom's groups
- Can’t find appropriate **devotional materials**
- **Blessed Is She** – along Catechism
- St. Edward – **Teams of Our Lady**
- Cedar Falls/Waterloo want to encourage others to join **Teams of Our Lady**
- Not too “churchy” for men – Ames, Des Moines
- Used to have MOMs at St. Edward, but not right now
  - MOMs – the name can be off-putting
- **CDA**: Catholic Daughters of America – Campus Court at ISU
• Partnered with Evangelical Catholic to develop small groups with discipleship training
• Given – A Women’s Conference – came back to start something –
• Eucharistic Adoration for young adults
• Young women considering path in life – single women discernment
• UNI – St. Stephen – Evangelical Catholic – needs help with discernment
• Jesup – Sr. Donna noticed high number of widows – meet to go out for lunch/dinner – one Sunday/month – going to Mass alone
• Catholic Writers Guild
• Live Stream Women’s Conference
• Tools for helping women gather online
• Childcare is important
• Would love a social group for women 40+ (coffee, wine, movies)
• Gilbertville – How do we find out about things?
• St. Patrick, Tama – Date Night once/month – meal, share, presentation
• WWME – World Wide Marriage Encounter: need to belong to a community after weekend
• Christian Family Movement
• Harlem, IA – UNI – Ladies Guild doesn’t sound exciting
• Can we help small towns develop groups?
• The Well – Read MOM – a different book each month
• Retreat Resources –
• Strengths Finder – Could there be a way to do this?
• Still need people to do the work
• Having Joyfully Gifted there
  • Getting women to feel empowered
  • Bible Study and service
• T-Shirts for vendors
(sent by a participant at the Beauty Alive event in Cedar Falls)
• Women preachers and presiding at Word and Communion

MASON CITY – St. Joseph [September 21, 2017]:
• Only 2 altar servers – need parents
• Is what we are offering appealing – getting people to do anything?
• Could adults – especially women – serve as altar servers?
• Beauty In Christ Conference – looked appealing!
  • Things haven’t always looked appealing – Marketing was well done.
  • They took time to connect and promote so it must be a good conference
  • Had to drive, stay overnight, so had to be appealing to give up
• Not changing the message – say it so they can hear it – takes time
• Women’s Conference was great – looking forward
• Kids are not coming to church – have to get parents engaged
• Have you asked kids if they want to be altar servers?
• Personally invited to a MOMs group – wouldn’t have gone if not invited
• Wants to belong to a Bible study – weekly in summer
  • 9:00 AM doesn’t work – at work
• Parish got parishioners subscription to Magnificat
• Mom wants son more involved – offering to help at parish
  • Invite young people to help – specific opportunities – personal invitation
• Recent student from UNI –
  • We decide what we should be doing in our parish
  • Allow opportunities
  • Encourages people to become involved
• Research is showing – intergenerational experiences are wanted, valuable
• MOMs has been successful – also used with GrandMOMs
• Courageous Woman series – about women in the Bible
• 3 hour retreat – Emptying Your Cup
• Small group connections – help to support one another – how do we connect – wants to know people when I go to Church
• Youth programs – Baseball games in summer at 8:00 AM
• Dynamic Catholic – has been so helpful – emails, books, speakers
• Religion Teacher needs someone to pour into her
  • Young Adult feels left out
• What is there to teach women about birth control?

MARION – St. Joseph (October 3, 2017):
• Social mostly
• MOMs to SOAR – to empty nesters – KITES
• Young adult ministry
• Flock note reminders: a way to communicate with parishioners
• Families w/disabilities or challenging behaviors
• Don’t forget women who don’t have children
• Catholic Evangelization Outreach – available in CR Deanery – witness talks – parishes offer team leaders – care team – use different technology to help promote and share
• Offer to apathy – St. Patrick – how they communicate with parishioners – Flock note parishioners (who sign up) – text reminders
• People are later and later to commit – help parish by committing early
  • Women put themselves last – things get canceled
• St. Pius – Harvest of Hope – women’s event
• St. Jude – Fall Women’s Brunch – personal invitation (prayer, food, speaker)
• Support your parishes
• Looking for something during the day – for stay at home mom
  • Can’t find sitters
  • Looking for women at same stage of life
  • No MOMs group in area
  • Wants a group to share
- **Familia** in KY – respect life group – provided childcare
- Seen lots of **home-school families** at daytime Mass
- Moms take turns within the group
- Pius X – MOMs Group for ears – more not St. Pius X people
- **Virtus** training opportunities readily available at beginning
- St. Jude – Tuesday mornings – a MOMs group is starting
- Book club for moms – St. Pat’s – The Friendship Project
- **Pietra Fitness** – St. Joseph, St. Patrick – Prayer is part of fitness
- Work part-time – wants to see a group of **Catholic business** women
- **Guardian Angel** prayer at work when talking about LV shooting
- **Alexander House** Program was in a parish – couple time important
- Generations at table
- **ACTs retreat** – wish we could get
- **CEWs** are here
- Women love to gather in homes – or in a really nice space or in a coffee place
- Java & Jesus – Friday evenings after work – flexible- young adult
  - Prayer, share ideas
  - Talked about things that were on their mind
  - Do service (action)
  - Weekly goals
  - Support for one another
- When I retired – read a book – feels a lot of Church activities are geared to those beginning their walk in faith
  - How do we feed those who are already on their walk?
  - Loved “**My Walk With God**” – work within yourself
- If you’re alive, you have a mission
- Just baptized in 2015 – adults just coming into the Church
  - They still want to learn about the **Catholic faith**
  - **RCIA** should not be the end
- **FORMED** has great things that can help parishes.
- Groups meeting Friday morning – intergenerational – **Matthew Kelly books**
- Small city – different from city parishes
  - Facing apathy
  - No one is doing anything besides FF
  - Doesn’t know how to battle that
  - People are leaving

**DECORAH – St. Benedict (October 5, 2017):**
- **Leadership** night – all leaders of the parish commissions meet monthly
  - Pray together, break into commissions, come back together, share, then pastoral council meeting
- People are doing things, but then so one comes
  - Need to reconsider how we are doing things
  - What time
- Involve families, etc.
- Families don't work the same way as in the 70's (or before)
- Large cities utilize Y’s and Boys/Girls Clubs – how can we do something like this?
- Six parish cluster – whole different entity
- Food tends to draw people
- CEWs have been going on
- Ladies Night Out – annual speaker, salad dinner – well received
  - 150 women
  - Can host a table and decorate it
- 6 parishes – Fr. Kyle
  - Talked about Last Supper: taped and online
  - 1 hour, 6 sessions
  - 7-Sisters Apostolate 1 hour/day/women pray for pastor/priest
- ACCW Convention/Conference – great day!
- Mother's Prayers – Dubuque – meet at lunchtime to pray for their children
- Want more stuff online- information – to get the word out
- Legion of Mary – prayer
- Bring back to the church adult children
- NFP resources that are really technologically advanced
  - Communicate with someone to chart (over Skype)
  - Need some more specific “how-to”
- Technology – online presence by parishes to “dial in” to an event
- Some are scared of technology – keep that in mind – show us how to use it
- There is a need in nursing homes – they shouldn’t be forgotten
  - Need visitors
  - Help parishes keep in touch with people in nursing homes
- Single women feel alone – widows, divorced, single – need something
- FORMED.org – using Y-Disciple – can use for small group sharing
- Strong Catholic Families presentation – good, but need reinforcement
- Prayer Chain
- Small Group – grief support group
- Layette Ministry – can do something without going to meetings
- ACCW Conference Booklet – utilized prayer calendar
  - Nursing home residents praying for priests
- Team Rosary – 4 or 5 to lead rosary
- Soup Suppers
- Don’t hear about rosary/Fatima
- Personal retreat so important

**DUBUQUE – Resurrection (October 9, 2017):**
- We are all spiritual mothers – nurturing each other.
- How much is just for the parish? Could we reach out beyond our parish?
- How do we have a central location for people to know what is going on?
- Need to meet physical and emotional needs –
• Need to meet people where they are.
• If you see it, address it.
• MOM's group – Bible study – If you see a need (because you FEEL the need) YOU start it.
• Children are God’s gift – they belong here (cards/reminders)
• DBQ Area Congregations United
• Women’s Arch Newsletter? Combine with ACCW “Link?”
• Buddy Bench – need a friend, sit and someone becomes your buddy
• The Witness – publicize parish events
• Need good communication between parishes in DBQ (or cities/areas)
  • Representative who seeks out programs and communications
• Befriender Group – 23 yrs old and still growing
  • Young Adult small group/women’s group 2 months and Facebook group for social events
  • Moms and not Moms
  • Spiritual book – read and discuss
• Women’s group began as a RENEW group in late 80's/early 90's – meet once a month
• Resurrection (LIFT: Ladies in Faith Together)
  • Women's ministry groups
  • Monthly social (usually Sunday afternoon),
  • Friday night movie night
  • Bunco
  • All-Saints tea –
  • Available – trying to connect women in parish –
    • use bulletin, facebook, email, for all women
    • use social space
• Grief Share – any kind of a loss – from a pastorate of 5 parishes
• Sew Much Love – make all kinds of things (chemo hats, dresses, etc.) to be given away
• Prayer Shawl group – ladies get together, make in home, blessed
  • given to anyone who needs them, receive yarn, card-making ministry
• Word of mouth gets more women.
• Avoid saying hello to people you don't know –
  • waited for someone to say Hi after Mass
  • still waiting
• Tries to welcome newcomers
• Back of church – people who stay – all in their own groups
• Finding time that works to offer things
• Grandma joined a Moms group
  • took care of children
  • invited self
  • now mix of older women and younger women
• Pietra Fitness – for all ages – videos available to gather women
• Holy Spirit – Grandparent ministry (want to start)
Looking for divorce support – Divorce & Beyond – from St. Joseph the Worker
Wisdom and Wine – gets women together – doing Altaration this Fall
Catholic Fitness videos during RE classes
Looking for resources – what has worked
FORMED.org -Like Catholic Netflix
Walking with Purpose – being done – 16 or 22 weeks, and videos are expensive
Single, never married – where do I fit? – Big concern
Expectant mothers
  - needs for fertility/infertility and infertility issues, miscarriages, and those who have lost a child, and those who have no mother
How do we be more intentional and aware of others?
Started single women’s group – evolved into widows
Bulletin announcement – need to have clear announcements –
  - Who is it for?
  - What is it for?
  - Clearly articulated
  - Make it easier to find our what the event is
  - Targeting/mindful

MANCHESTER – St. Mary (October 10, 2017):
- Homebound and recently widowed are lonely – how do we reach out to them? Sit-with-me Rosary.
- Christ Renews His Parish – how a group got to know each other
- RENEW program – put life in parishes
- Guess who’s coming to dinner?
- Building up a new pastorate
- Men have their own group
  - Important for men and women to meet separately
  - Mother’s women’s group
  - Meet weekly at someone’s home
  - Right after school drop-off
  - Studying Wisdom
- Youth Group started
  - Meet every-other Sunday night
  - Also a Jeff Cavins youth group that meets every Wednesday night with rosary and talk – makes snacks
- Theology On Tap – just had a very successful witness presentation
- Bereavement group – helping those grieving, with funerals
- Sponsor couples
- Weekly gathering to pray the rosary
- Adoration has been started
- Lay Formation Alumni discussion group – meets 5x/year to discuss spiritual books
- IMPACT program and then My Walk With God – now do one book instead of one per month – spread it out more
So uncomfortable at Church – especially if new to the Church
  - Needs life after RCIA course
Great organization – CDofA – court in Manchester
  - Charitable and spiritual
  - Welcome everyone
  - Not all about meetings
  - Have “Circle of Love”
  - Can participate in any part of it
  - Woman w/cancer had other members praying rosary for her during treatments
Very active group – social justice committee (right now all women)
  - Do all sorts of projects/outreach
Everyone getting along – want to see that
People taking younger generation to care centers and asking them what wisdom they have to share
The youth are amazing – 20,000 at NCYC – so excited, but come back to nothing has changed
Vocational discernment
Generations of Faith
How do you get the fire going in others?
Figuring out to involve people in what they love to do
Wants to see more for the single young adults – done with college, but not settled
Start something online?
Decorah – clean up river, go canoeing, prayer service