

Christian Service Commission Meeting

April 23, 2016

In Attendance: Cheryl Bida, Bill Hill, Debbie Jackson, Sr. Grace Keane, Karen Schenk

Gathering Prayer: from St. Vincent DePaul

Focus Group: Minutes from April 20 meeting emailed to CSC. Karen Schenk ranked High and Moderate numbers from the CS Survey Needs Assessment. Karen will email those numbers to CSC. Bill noted that the combined numbers aligned with top priorities and needs ranked by highest need. The Focus Group reached consensus on Homelessness/Affordable Housing, Hunger, Mental Health. 225 Survey responses were received with a noticeable lack of millennials. Sr. Grace noted that the 26 volunteers PC, Leadership Team all have access to the data. This forms a collaborative effort in charting a course forward. Sr. Grace will forward survey data, minutes, notification of next meeting and draft agenda to the Group of 26. Debbie Jackson will make phone calls.

Lenten Almsgiving: Beneficiary was Matchan Nutrition Center in Pontiac. \$2,724.00 collected. Sr. Grace delivered the checks in person. It was recommended for Lent 2017 that other groups suggest Almsgiving recipients in September. Criteria still to be established. The CS office is tracking recipients and amounts by year, including opportunities for prayer, education, advocacy (as promoted in the Bishops' Statement Salt and Light and exemplified in the Coordinators' Guide from CRS-Catholic). CRS is taking orders now. Perhaps the September target should become June.

RHEMA Restoring Hope through Education and Medical Aid. Betty Maciejewski is starting a preliminary conversation with this Rochester group whose primary mission is to Haiti. Fred Braun was interested in contacting other parishes who have established relationships in Africa, El Salvador, Santa Domingo. Fred has recently moved – Betty might continue the data gathering. Meeting with RHEMA is on May 9.

#End45 Community Photo, is in the Gym on Sunday, April 24 to raise awareness of the 45 million people living in Poverty in the United States. Email sent to CS committees requesting assistance for a few minutes. Plan for follow-up to End45. Possible formation of an Advocacy and Education Group to report at June 18 Commission.

Blood Drive canceled in April. Co-chairs talking to ARC to determine the circumstances on their part.

CCRT does not receive a food collection from St. Hugo in July. Bill recommended that the PAV collect in June. Bill will ask CCRT if the needs are covered this June for July. Suzie Phillips will inquire of the PAV.

Annual Calendar. Draft dates received several months ago. A graphic artist type is needed to format for distribution to the parish. In the meantime Monthly Highlights is posted to the website, Narthex bulletin board, CS Office Door, Fr. Stan, PC President and notice in Bulletin. (see April attachment) Additional Calendar item – Amy Kennedy to submit St. Michael’s Food Pantry dates to the online calendar.

June Chapel Prayer for PC and Commissions. To be created by Debbie Jackson, Bill Hill, Cheryl Bida, Karen Schenk. Sr. Grace will provide format and prayer text by May 21, Dan to provide Music. Plan for 8-10 minutes.

Additional items.

Mercy in Action. CCSEM – Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan through Christian Service Coordinators is promoting a Day of Mercy, Sat. October 1, 2016. Each vacriate has 2 co-chairs. Sr. Grace attends the monthly meetings at the SHMS and reports to the CS Coordinators in PAV. It is recommended that PAV have two sites. The site is responsible for light breakfast, and lunch. The Gathering prayer will be supplied through CCSEM. The co-chairs with cs coordinators and parish volunteers are responsible for securing Sites to volunteer at and using Sign Up Genius to register parishioners. Please contact Sr. Grace for more details and if interested in assisting. Would St. Mary of the Hills like to be a host site?

Flint Water Crisis. Richard Lane, the presenter at the Parish Mission, challenged the Parish to get involved in the Flint Water Crisis. Recommendation is to wait and hear from the group of 26 parishioners who responded to the Survey before addressing Flint. The Parishioner who volunteered to take the water bottles to Flint will be contacted for an update.

Recorder needed for CS Commission before June 18 or September meeting. Advertise in the bulletin and ask in person. Attend Commission meeting on most third Saturdays of the Month. Submit minutes to PC Secretary within the week.

Vision for Christian Service. The shortest answer is see www.saltandlight.org. Review the AOD CS Guidelines for application. Foster collaboration. Rely on the Holy Spirit. Build consensus on the Vision, Mission and work on implementation.