

Christian Service Commission Meeting

Saturday February 15, 2014

Commission Reports

1. CS Coordinator / Grace Keane, OSF –St. Vincent De Paul meeting, attended recently, collecting wine bottles to be used for the Wine-Down event on March 15 – need some. See Grace, or you may put used bottles in the bin in the coatroom, per Joan’s comments at PC.
 - Also they are having trouble getting donations for the Gala basket. Is their interest in helping with donations? Cash donations would be best. Joan suggested a \$20 donation and see her if you are interested.
 - Communities of Salt and Light – quick report back on one of the topics – next one is prayer and worship, all of parish life synced with Christian service, education/formation etc. are others. See website.
 - CS coordinator job description – Grace to email out the different descriptions – visioning and missioning – See agenda for this.

RTL-Lifespan-CPC / Karen Schenk –

2. The 2014 March for Life was a huge success despite the bitterly cold weather; at least 20 parishioners attended – see follow-up article and photos on the www.smoth.org website.
 - LIFESPAN is holding their 25th annual Baby Shower on **Sunday, March 9, 2014**, to benefit local Pregnancy Help Centers. We participated several times in the past, but need to coordinate this event with the SMOTH Lenten program. Can we hold the drop-off Baby shower? **I checked with B Belesky, and she said that our commission will be the ones to decide who the Lenten recipients would be this year.** [Note that we cannot choose which pregnancy center to ‘adopt’; instead, LIFESPAN assigns us to an agency so that all of them can be serviced.]

- Will be requesting an ad for the LIFESPAN Resource book 2014 from the Tithing Committee (half page ad is \$165). This is the only \$\$ LIFESPAN has been receiving on an annual basis directly from SMOTH.
- The Celebration of Life Annual Dinner for LIFESPAN is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at the San Marino Club in Troy. Reservations are \$50/person or \$475 per table of 10. See Karen for more info.

3. St. Vincent De Paul / Deb Jackson – Debbie is out sick today and can give her update when she is feeling better.

4. CCRT, Peace & Justice / Joan Cashman:

I would like to include an appeal to all the commissions to promote purchase of tickets to the CCRT Gala.

- The Gala is March 1 and will be held at Notre Dame Prep. It is a beer/wine tasting with hearty appetizers and an amazing auction. Tickets are \$40 each. You can purchase tickets on Saturday when the commissions meet and also after all the Masses this coming weekend (2/15, 2/16). You can also contact me by phone or email (248.651.4361) until Feb 25.
- Just to reiterate, the CCRT was set up by our vicariate and it needs our support. It is CCRT's 10th year of servicing the no/low income in Pontiac.
- Karen donated a bag for the basket that we want to donate to the

5. Red Cross Blood Drive / (Bob Sheldrick via email):

- As indicated in our last Report, we are committed to three Blood Drives at St. Mary of the Hills for 2014, the Blood Drive dates are: May 4, August 3 and December 7. Space for the Drives and related dates for taking appointments has been reserved. Volunteer assignments will be made approximately one month in advance for each of the Drives.

- With regard to the church year 2014 budget I would like to propose a \$150.00 budget for the Blood Drive Team volunteers to provide coffee break and luncheon for the Red Cross personnel for the three drives: \$50 per drive. Volunteers have been doing this on their own for many years. If this proposal is unacceptable, we volunteers will continue to fund this cost.. It could be that this issue should be brought up for the 2015 church year and not 2014.
 - *I will not be in attendance at the February 15, meeting as I am stuck in the Florida Keys.*
6. St. Michael's Food Pantry (Amy Kennedy via email): St. Michael's Food Pantry: we held a food drive Feb. 1-2, and we will continue to hold monthly food drives.
- There is still a need for volunteers to help with setup and greeting, especially at the 5pm masses.
7. Giving Tree Program / Cyndie Ferrara: Cannot be present, however nothing new to report.
8. Rochester Area Neighborhood House (RANH) / Cheryl Bida:
- We served 2694 Clients, the financial amount requested was \$271,410 and we were able to give \$99,277 and thaw contributed \$66,419.
 - There were over 12,000 bags of food and we drove over 14,000 for people so we do know there is a need in our community. Hopefully their valentine concert with Mark Tisdell is successful.
9. Office / Judy Rhoads: nothing new to report

10. CARE Job Ministry / Alberto Rodriguez: No report
11. Evangelization Committee/ Mark Joyce: The EVc is sponsoring the upcoming world release picture “Son of God” which will be appearing locally at the Emagine Theater in R. Hills on Friday, February 28th. This is being promoted as a get-ready event for Lent which begins March 5th on Ash Wednesday. See article in bulletin.

Old Business – Denis Naeger has requested a short bio (“getting to know you”) from and on each commission including a statement of purpose/mission. This was discussed at the beginning of the meeting. Was a discussion of different approaches to definition of Christian service, agreed to table it for sake of time, but allow members to review and reflect on several potential suggested statements from members which follow, to be followed by more discussion at next meeting:

1. Christian Services are the activities by which Catholics endeavor to live God's commandment to love thy neighbor. Through acts of corporal and spiritual mercy, they share the love and mercy of Christ with their neighbors. By aiding others with their spiritual and material necessities, Catholics grow in conformance to Christ and ultimately receive His Divine mercy.

2. Our Christian service group at SMOTH's primary function is to “share the love and mercy of Christ with their neighbors. By aiding others with their spiritual and material necessities...” (same as above)

3. The Christian Service Commission exists as a model and resource of Catholic Social Teaching to enable the entire parish community to put the social teaching of the Church into action. The Commission empowers the members of the parish to fulfill the Church's mission of love, justice, freedom and peace under the mantle of evangelization by communally responding, in an organized way, to societal and individual needs. The Commission creates and/or promotes programs that strive to address human needs and achieve justice whether locally or in the broader communities of vicariate, region, Archdiocese, state, nation, and world.

More discussion in on this today, Grace will send out the guidelines.
We will continue to work on this – study, pray.

Amy spoke about school – sponsored events. Need support from our church parishioners,

Get those out of the pews, and get them personal invitation (Karen), multiple methods of getting people involved, lots of suggestions.

Not connecting with large % of parishioners.

Suggestions for almsgiving during Lent (per comments by Karen above)

- RTL-LIFESPAN event March 9th (See Karen's notes above),
 - Abigail Ministries
- Children's Village – Gerry Tergion(?) March 30th Presentation?
Joan suggests that we ask for prayer as a gift... a prayer card
Sew a tag onto the gift that we give, etc. to Children's Village
- Mary's Mantle

Update: See attached for Lenten almsgiving schedule

Intentional Disciples (book) – let's put this on our list of things to give it 5 minutes – at next meeting – enter into discussion chapters 1 & 2 will be our March reading assignment.

New Business :

Fr. Stan - Interfaith Caregivers – looking for our church (20) to be in dialogue with a Muslim group in Detroit , May Thursdays (4), one of which would be (15th) there, want to know if Christian Service would be interested, the remaining we would need to host.

Purpose of project to raise awareness and host it here with congregation. The Greater Detroit Islamic Center – Father Stan is familiar with them (mosque near Davidson and I-75, in Detroit).

Their website in our minutes www.icrj.org – (also see email attached with minutes) would we be interested in sponsoring this - (Fellowship (Marlene D.) could help with the refreshments).

Ministry Fair; Oct 4th event at SMOTH. With stewardship period running Sept through end of the October.

All CS groups asked to submit a description of their group work for the SMOTH website. Attached to the minutes is the Ministry Fair Booklet for consideration/modification. Please check website www.smoth.org for current content posted. Please email your rewrite to Sr. Grace by next meeting, Weds, 3/12. (*Will send reminder email 1st week March*).

Please inform Mark if there are any corrections you would like to make to the minutes.

Next Meeting: Weds March 12, 2014 at 7:00pm