

# Christian Service Commission Meeting

## January 15, 2014

Attendees: Sr. Grace Keane, Deb Jackson, Joan Cashman, Judy Rhoads, Mark Joyce, Cheryl Bida, Karen Schenk, Cyndie Ferrara, Alberto Rodriguez

### Commission Reports

1. CS Coordinator / Grace Keane, OSF –discussed a. SMOTH website relaunched and live, b. bulletin article on the upcoming Celebration of Heritage/ immigration awareness event on Sunday, 1/26 in gym, email was sent out 1/5 to inform(included with minutes), to be followed by another soon. 1/26/14 marks the beginning of Catholic schools week, as well.
2. RTL-Lifespan-CPC / Karen Schenk – 9 busses will go to the D.C. March For Life, expected attendance is 650k, \$720 in X-mas card sales w/ ½ of that net raised for local pro-life charity. Giving Tree Gifts were given to Right to Life LIFESPAN and **Wee Care** (60 gifts plus 6 gift cards), Giving Tree also collected gifts for CPC, and Marchann Simon handled that collection. 1/19 is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.
3. St. Vincent De Paul / Deb Jackson – 1/26 is the annual St. Vincent’s meeting to be at Sacred Heart Maj. Seminary w/Mass and a breakfast following, theme is “Changing Lives One Person at a Time”. Wine-down benefit event March 15. Bulletin article on CD sale over Christmas that netted \$530 for local charities with thanks to Ken and Hazel Beres.
4. CCRT, Peace & Justice / Joan Cashman: CCRT March 1<sup>st</sup> Gala planning underway, looking for silent auction items, with a basket discussed to come from St. Mary’s. Looking for volunteers – to help with event. Good items already donated for the dinner. Shoebox Recycling/CCRT donations still active with bins in coatroom.

5. Red Cross Blood Drive / (Bob Sheldrick via email): The 2014 Blood Drives will be held on May 4, August 3, and December 7. All required space for appointments and the drives have been reserved. The next blood drive will be Sunday, May 4.
6. St. Michael's Food Pantry (Amy Kennedy via email): Monthly food drives at SMOTH, to benefit St. Michael's Food Pantry in Pontiac, with the next food drive weekend of February 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Volunteer update: There was an ad in the bulletin requesting volunteers, but it had the wrong email address listed, despite several attempts for it to be corrected. If ads are run again, requesting a chance to review it for accuracy first. Approx. 15 families on the volunteer list, but still don't have "coverage" for all three masses. Usually get only 1-2 families to help each month, Amy's family covers remaining time.

7. Giving Tree Program / Cyndie Ferrara: Program collected many gifts again this year, > 1300 gift cards and many other gifts, no problems, generosity was very good. Discussion of next year's giving list, also thought to do a Children's Village or Christmas in July event, tbd. Discussion of doing 2 Children's Village events, perhaps one in July.
8. Rochester Area Neighborhood House / Cheryl Bida: Christmas 2013 season activities benefited 500 children, Cheryl to forward update with specifics.
9. Office / Judy Rhoads: No business to report.
10. CARE Job Ministry / Alberto Rodriguez: CARE met to assist job seekers 3 specific times as part of the Rochester Area Career Ministry during 2013, and expects that it will meet 5-6 times during 2014 to meet the needs of the community, dates to be set soon.
11. Evangelization Comm./ rep. Mark Joyce: At Christmas masses a prayer intention/welcome card was given to all prior to start of Mass

showing a nativity scene, with a small stack collected after Mass. Evangelization committee meeting regularly, with Susie Phillips chairing the Vicariate Evangl. Committee that meets every month. Next committee meeting is 7pm on Thursday, 2/6.

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.

New Business – Fr. Stan stopped by to remind us of the July 11 dinner and July 13 25<sup>th</sup> St. Mary of the Hills anniversary parish picnic.

Please inform Mark if there are any corrections you would like to make to the minutes.  
Next Meeting: Saturday, February 15, 2014 at 7:45am