

Christian Service Commission Meeting

March 12, 2014

Commission Reports

- CS Coordinator / Grace Keane, OSF –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. For April, CS assignment question is “*What opportunities for prayer, scripture study, and reflection on our Christian vocation does our parish offer? How is our social mission incorporated into these activities?*”
- CS coordinator job description –See agenda for this, on 2nd page.

RTL-Lifespan-CPC / Karen Schenk –During Lent, specifically during the weekends of March 16 & 23, **Wee Care** (an outreach program of RTL-LIFESPAN that provides infant clothing, blankets, formula and diapers and much more on an **emergency referral basis** to help mothers and their babies when their needs cannot be met by other organizations) will be the recipient of our almsgiving. Currently Wee Care is in huge need of: **Diapers, size 1; Onesies and sleepers, 3 months & 6 months; small stuffed animals (for sharing with baby’s siblings); receiving blankets; and baby wipes.**

· The annual Celebrate Life! Dinner will be held on Tuesday, May 6 at the San Marino Club, Troy, with dinner being served at 7 PM. Ryan Bomberger, Radiance Foundation CEO, will be the keynote speaker. His biological mother was raped yet went through 9 months of a traumatic pregnancy, choosing to give him Life. He was adopted at 6 weeks of age and grew up in a loving, multi-racial family of 15, which gave him a great appreciation for diversity. Ten of the thirteen children were adopted in his family. The Radiance Foundation is an educational life-affirming organization which works through creative ad campaigns,

powerful multi-media presentations, and compassionate community outreach to *illuminate* the intrinsic value each person possesses. Dinner tickets are \$50/person (see attachment for more details).

Other important pro-life information

- **The40Film** <http://www.the40film.com/> is an hour-long documentary which presents abortion as the most important human and civil rights issue of our time. **40** features inspiring stories and deeply personal interviews with many of the biggest names in the pro-life movement, along with heartfelt testimonies by women who have had abortions. The movie weaves together personal stories of tragedy and regret with glimmers of hope and love to create a tool for sharing the truth about what 40 years of legalized abortion-on-demand has given America. Another premier showing of the film will be held **on March 25, at the Maple Theater in Birmingham at 7PM**. Proceeds from that showing will go to Birth Choice in Clarkston.

- The Charlotte Lozier Institute, research arm of the SBA List, recently released a new report showing that the **United States is one of just seven countries in the world to allow abortions past 20 weeks**. This finding suggests that current proposals in the United States to restrict elective abortions past 20 weeks would move the United States from the fringe, ultra-permissive end of the spectrum to a position closer to international norms.
- Of the 198 countries examined, the U.S. falls into bad company with Canada, China, North Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, and the Netherlands. **If you compare population size, the U.S. would get a silver medal in the category of late abortions, outranked only by China.** (A pdf version of the report is available at <http://www.lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/American-Report-Series-INTERNATIONAL-ABORTION-NORMS1.pdf>.)

[FYI, The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (S.1670) would protect unborn babies capable of feeling excruciating pain beginning at 20 weeks, or more than halfway through pregnancy.]

· Anyone interested in participating in 40days for life should check out this site: <http://40daysforlife.com/sterlingheights.html> in Sterling Heights. The Womancare clinic is located on 15 Mile Rd, east of Van Dyke where Dodge Park intersects it. Feel free to participate in a peaceful prayer vigil! Already 44 babies have been saved during the current 40 day prayer vigil in cities around the globe.

- LIFESPAN: 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.
 - 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.
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- St. Vincent De Paul / Deb Jackson – St. Vincent dePaul Conference Wine-Down, Saturday March 15th at 6:30. Tickets \$35 each and benefits SVdP ministry. See bulletin and poster in Narthex.
 - CCRT, Peace & Justice / Joan Cashman: The CCRT report for The Gala held on March 1: Finances are still incomplete. We are waiting on submission of some bills. However, the profit seems to be about \$25,000. After St. John Fisher, St Mary's had the next highest participation in tickets purchased.

-In question is whether to continue with the ham/kielbasa and fair trade sales. It would be wonderful to have support for this if we are to continue this ministry.

- Red Cross Blood Drive / Bob Sheldrick:
 - 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.
- St. Michael's Food Pantry Amy Kennedy: 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.
- Giving Tree Program / Cyndie Ferrara: nothing new to report.
- Rochester Area Neighborhood House (RANH) / Cheryl Bida:
 - All is well at Neighborhood house. They are looking for boxes for the Food Pantry.
 - They can be taken to Neighborhood House offices on the St. Andrew campus.
- Office / Judy Rhoads: nothing new to report from the office
- CARE Job Ministry / Alberto Rodriguez: No report

The Neighborhood House
Food Pantry
Needs your boxes!



- Evangelization Committee/ Mark Joyce: The EVc-sponsored picture “*Son of God*” is appearing locally at the Emagine Theater in R. Hills. See article in bulletin. This is being promoted as an event for Lent. Several committee members attended the AOD presentation on “Christlife” at the seminary on February 26th, which is a parish program for the new evangelization. The committee is studying if and how to implement Christlife at SMotHills.

Old Business –

Intentional Disciples – Chapter 1 & 2 reading assignment. Discussion was held on these initial two chapters. *Next month*: Ch. 3&4.

2014 Lenten Almsgiving: This is the schedule that will be appearing weekly in the bulletin, with thanks to Beth Belesky for assembling it.

Lent 2014 St. Mary of the Hills Almsgiving Recipients

March

| (Sunday) | Organization | Donations | Lead |
|----------|--|-----------|--------------|
| 16 | Wee Care (Items for local pregnancy center, or monetary) | | Karen Schenk |
| 23 | Wee Care “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ | | “ “ |
| 30 | St. Michael’s Food Pantry (food drive, or monetary) | | Amy Kennedy |

April

| | | | |
|----|--|--|--------------|
| 6 | St. Michael’s Food Pantry “ “ “ “ | | |
| 13 | CCRT (household/toiletries, or monetary) | | Joan Cashman |

Interfaith Center for Racial Justice (ICRJ) – looking for our church 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, (Listen, Learn, Live) and host it with congregations. The Greater Detroit Islamic Center – Father Stan is familiar with them (mosque near Davidson and I75 in Detroit). Their website in our minutes www.icri.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.

New Business – see Agenda

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

Next Commission Meeting: Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 7:45am in Chapel, followed by Parish Council.