

# Christian Service Commission Meeting

April 12, 2014

(Attendees: Grace, Joan, Cheryl, Deb, Karen, Mark)

## Commission Reports

CS Coordinator / Grace Keane, OSF –Communities of Salt and Light – quick report back on one of the topics, see below– next one is prayer and worship, all of parish life synced with Christian service. Mental health presentation prevented Sister's time to present, more to come in May.

- RTL-Lifespan-CPC / Karen Schenk –During Lent we collected \$129 in cash donations and a 'trunkful' of diapers, wipes, infant clothing, hand-made afghans, and toiletries for **Wee Care**, an outreach program of RTL-LIFESPAN.
- 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. 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 and compassionate community outreach to *illuminate* the intrinsic value each person possesses. Dinner tickets are \$50/person.
- **We will be selling carnations after all masses on Mother's Day weekend, May 10 & 11, to benefit the educational programs of LIFESPAN.** The price remains at a bargain \$1/ carnation.

*Other important pro-life information*

- 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.

Out 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.]

· **Every day, 120,000 babies are aborted world-wide; about 3,200 of those occur daily in the US. That's one baby aborted every 26 seconds of every day.**

- St. Vincent De Paul / Deb Jackson – St. Vincent dePaul Conference Wine-Down, Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> was well attended and successful. Deb expressed that there is an interest in redirecting where some of the funding goes, rather than just Thaw and Rx drug program, looking more into our community, and trying to help differently than SVdP currently does.
- CCRT, Peace & Justice / Joan Cashman:
  - Joan will continue with the Easter ham/kielbasa and fair trade sales.
  - CCRT is the designated Lenten Almsgiving receiver this week,

- Idea to start a 15 minute volunteer program at St. Mary's – discussion to occur with Laura C. about this idea that would allow for minimal volunteer commitment and help foster increased parishioner participation in many ways.

- Red Cross Blood Drive / Bob Sheldrick:  
The Red Cross has set a goal of 72 units for the St. Mary of the Hills' May 4th blood drive. Arrangements have been made to take appointments after Masses on April 13th, April 26th and 27th and May 3rd.
- St. Michael's Food Pantry, Amy Kennedy: St. Michael's Food Pantry: as part of the St. Mary Lenten Almsgiving, St. Michael's was designated for two weekends of parish donation, on March 29/30 and April 5/6.

On a regular monthly collection basis, there is still a need for volunteers to help with setup and greeting, especially at the 5pm Saturday 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
- Evangelization Committee/ Mark Joyce: As mentioned last month, Several committee members attended the AOD presentation on “Christlife” at the major seminary on February 26<sup>th</sup>, which is a parish program for the new evangelization. The committee is meeting to study “if and how” to implement Christlife at SMotHills with a May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting that is scheduled. The hope is that there will be a recommendation for the next parish meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The AOD is sponsoring a training series in September for Christlife.

**Old Business –**

2014 Lenten Almsgiving:

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 – plans are in place and flyers were distributed at chapel for this May Thursday event. Hospitality volunteers needed for this since we are hosting except for May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Article written in this week’s bulletin.

Purpose of project to raise awareness, (Listen, Learn, Live) and host it with congregations. The Greater Detroit Islamic Center – Their website in our minutes [www.icrj.org](http://www.icrj.org) – (mosque near Davidson and I75 in Detroit). See update for this in new business.

Ministry Fair; October 4<sup>th</sup> event at SMOTH, With stewardship period running Sept through end of the October.

**New Business** – see April 12 agenda

1. Worship and Prayer – Karen led discussion on meaning of Catholic social teaching(CST), meaning of justice, (vs. charity). Roots of CST are with triune God as creator, Definitions/sources are Catechism, USCCB website. Four cardinal virtues. 13 resource area listed on usccb.org, which lists 60 documents including CST, a framework for parish action. Anchoring it is prayer and worship. How we treat the weakest among us, demands that everyone be treated fairly. Builds through community, woven through every aspect of parish life, focus most on very vulnerable.

2. ICRJ event – also mentioned in old business above, this will foster dialogue with African American Muslims, beginning Thursday May 1. Discussed fee of \$40, Grace will inquire from ICRJ as to how the \$50 registration fee is spent.

We discussed sponsoring The Listen, Learn, Live program. Joan or Mark will bring the request to Parish Council. Joan offered to provide hospitality for May 7, Cheryl for May 28. Details will be provided.

Mark made motion at PC (accepted) to allow sponsorship if needed for anyone who wishes to attend but is not able to afford the \$40 session fee. Joan, Cheryl, Mark are all planning to attend this.

3. Communities of Salt and Light- discussed question #4 in Assessing Parish Social Ministry. Group discussion on our parish's opportunities for prayer, scripture, devotions, and reflection. How to focus on special issues; earth, peace, freedom, and justice. Feeling more needs to be done, focus on individual needs?

4. Tabled discussion of Intentional Disciples, due to time (Ch. 3/ 4)

Please inform Mark if there are any additions/corrections you would like to make to the minutes.  
Thanks to all who could attend!

Next Meeting: Weds, May 14, 2014 at 7:00pm, HFRS South Campus