

## Christian Service Commission

May 14, 2014

**Facilitator:** Mark Joyce

**Note Taker:** Joan Cashman

**Present:** Mark Joyce, Joan Cashman, Bob Sheldrick, Karen Schenk, Judy Rhoads and Grace Keane, OSF

### Agenda:

1. **Outreach and Charity from Communities of Salt and Light(CSL) presentation – Deb Jackson**  
Debbie Jackson's presentation put on hold for the next meeting.
2. **CSL discussion on Catholic Social Teaching (CST)**
  - a. **Principle:** CST calls us to change the structures which deny people their dignity and rights as children of God. Service, action, charity and justice are components of parish social ministry.
  - b. **Reflection:** St Mary's supports many ministries and that among them
    - i. We support with blood drives
    - ii. that structures (i.e. wealth, education, location, etc )divide so we don't know each others' needs
    - iii. the Hispanic community is active but isolated
    - iv. need for more Eucharistic ministers at Mercy Bellbrook was expressed
    - v. more support for 'Right to Life' needed
  - c. **Supporting the 'Salt of the Earth'- Family, work and citizenship**
    - i. **CS Specific:** In what ways are parishioners providing leadership in unions, community groups, professional associations, and political organizations? How does our parish support them as they live their faith in these leadership roles?
      - There are many professionals in our parish who model how they treat people where they serve /work. A discussion of education in Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Detroit is considered an excellent modeling for leaders interacting with students of lesser means. In this program, business leaders partner with the school.
      - This type of leadership from St Mary's would need development and support
      - Karen advocated for the book: :*"The Pope and the CEO"* by Andreas Widmer.
  - d. **Discussion on our service programs that provide advocacy in changing the conditions that create poverty and suffering:**
    - i. We have no active advocacy programs in our parish
    - ii. A brief discussion followed on the "Listen, Learn & Live" program provided by the "Interfaith Center for Racial Justice". This program was held on four Thursday evenings in May to learn about the Black Muslim Community in Detroit- their culture and faith tradition.
3. **Function of CS commission**
  - a. Grace Keane SGL brought a document on the 'Functions of the Commission' which considers the administrative, educational and ministerial aspects of a CS commission. This document is for the working commission members, not for the website. We are asked to read this with the intent of prioritizing its content so that we can further develop the CS commission.
  - b. The website is being developed to reflect our various ministries. Each member is asked to review and update/ develop info on their ministry.
4. **Clarification on submitted reports / finalize Sat. evening St. Michael's Food Pantry coverage**  
Discussion was that it might not be necessary to have 'designated' St Michael's food pantry volunteers. It was suggested that the maintenance staff could move items donated to the bins in the coat room. Follow up on

this possibility is needed. The idea of 'staffing' services like this might be developed under a '15 minute ministry' program.

5. Chapter 3 & 4 Evangelization book "Intentional Discipleship"

Time permitted only a brief discussion. The purpose of the book is to cultivate discipleship and lead to a closer relationship with Jesus. Chapter 5 will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. Items on table:

- a. Work on a team project
- b. Discuss LLL
- c. Tithing
- d. Food Pantry
- e. Ham Sales
- f. Cristo Rey Field Trip,
- g. Freedom House
- h. Description of your ministry work for the SMOTH website

7. Next meeting is Saturday, June 14

### Christian Service Commission

The Christian Service Commission exists as a model and resource of Catholic social teaching to enable the entire parish communion 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 promotes programs that address human needs and achieve justice, whether locally or in the broader communities of vicariate, region, archdiocese, state, nation and world.

### St. Mary of the Hills Christian Service Coordinator

- Formulate with the CSC (Christian Service Commission) a VISION of what Christian Service at SMOTH should encompass in order to serve the needy in our surrounding area, Vicariate, and the world.
- COMMUNICATE and COORDINATE this vision to all groups that fall under the umbrella of Christian Service in order to optimize our resources of time, talent and treasures.
- EVALUATE what we do in the name of Christian Service on an annual basis to meet ever changing needs.
- Be the GATEKEEPER for all communication with members of service ministries and with the parish through editing of the Christian Service Bulletin page as well as keeping website up to date.
- Attend and/or communicate with members of the TITHING committee monitor
- Distribution of the monthly tithing and recommend adding or deleting recipients.
- Attend necessary MEETINGS including monthly SMOTH CSC meetings, bi-monthly PAV Christian Service Coordinator meetings (Monthly 2.5 hours)1 Thursday/month approx.3 hours) as well as SMOTH staff meetings (1x per month).
- Keep up with review and dissemination of MAIL that arrives at least 1x per week

### Commission Reports – via email

1. RTL—LIFESPAN (Karen Schenk):

Ryan Bomberger, speaker at the annual Celebrate Life! Dinner, said that some of the best things in life are unplanned, like a new life. He reiterated that 41% of children in the United States are now born into homes without fathers. Why is this important? Children growing up in homes without a married mother and father are five times more likely to grow up in poverty. Today 41% of white children and 72.3% of black children are growing up in homes with no fathers present. "Abortion has taken the place of fathers/fatherhood."

We collected \$575 from our Mother's Day carnation sales yielding a net profit of \$300.

At the end of May, LIFESPAN will be accepting used books for their annual book sale, to be held at St. Mary's in Royal Oak on July 10, 11, 12. You can drop off your used books at the Troy office on Big Beaver near Crooks. They can't take encyclopedias or *National Geographics*, but you can be sure someone is looking for a book you have already read. For more information please call the LIFESPAN office, (248)816-1546.

The 2,000 Cross display will again go up on our front lawn on June 21 – July 6. The Knights will sponsor this display of crosses, representing 2 babies killed daily by abortion for each cross.

2. RANH – (Cheryl Bida):

Rochester Area Neighborhood House has started a car donation program to help support the Neighborhood House. Includes free towing and a tax deduction, just need to call 855.500.7433 or visit [ranh-cardonations.org](http://ranh-cardonations.org).