

Christian Service Commission

March 14, 2015

Facilitator: Mark Joyce

Note Taker: Mark Joyce

Present: Joan Cashman, Mark Joyce, Grace Keane

Agenda:

Old Business

1. **AOD functions** esp. **administrative** – agreed to rollover this discussion until April meeting of CSC and focus on Structure, especially focusing on CSC membership succession planning within the context of the AOD guidelines for Christian Service commissions.

2. **Almsgiving for Lent.** The CRS (Catholic Relief Services) program Operation Rice Bowl (ORB) is up and running as our parish – sponsored event for Lent 2015. Operation Rice Bowl would fulfill more a global community outreach, allowing us to “enter into the silence” of our Lenten journey as we pray, fast, and give in global solidarity. Items discussed were:
 - A. The ritual collection scheduled for 5th weekend of Lent. There is to be a call-out following the normal collection for people to bring their offerings up to the altar. This was mentioned in Father Stan’s column. As such it will not be an usher’s 2nd collection, and can occur upon the return of children from their liturgy.
 - B. The Jack Cotter band appearance on Sunday, April 26 and reception is scheduled as a culmination of the almsgiving efforts. There will be envelopes distributed in the bulletin this weekend for contributions by check and approximately 70 cardboard rice bowls have been obtained for use with the youth groups/GIFT at the parish. The ORB collection box is in the narthex.

3. **Reports** See end of the minutes

4. **CS Vision** – Strategic planning group met on 1/26 to discuss pastoral planning process. Update: A CSL (Communities of Salt and Light) Focus Group survey was sent via email on 3/13 to a wide distribution. Next meeting of the CSL group (3 members) was set for March 10 and more active participants are being sought.

5. **Family Volunteer Corp Concept** – idea for young family service, sign up through website/ internet, link it to Education Commission; table until next month (April).

6. **PAV Assembly** – see notes in Reports

7. **Fall 'Retreat'**- Discussion of the suggested 2 hr retreat for all CS ministers. Also link and invite other commissions, potentially. The timing has to be worked out. Hopefully, we can look at calendars and pick out some potential replacements to a spring date. Need to establish a mission statement for the retreat as a start. Talk of having a sub-committee form to work these items out and report back in March to Commission.

New Business

8. **Seasonal Giving:** Discussion about idea of having 'individual' collections directed (May-CCRT, June CV, July SOS, August school supplies). Presented as a **Seasonal Campaign**, the idea is that parishioners would know what's up and if out of town could deliver their item(s) according to the preset schedule. (According to their convenience).

Next meeting April 25: Due to Lenten/Easter season the date was moved on the calendar. We may be able to have some discussion of the upcoming SOS activities, in addition to above items.

Note taker for April meeting will be: Deb Jackson

Reports

- **St. Vincent's (SVdP)** - No other report.
- **Giving Tree** - No report
- **LIFESPAN / RTL** - **Forty days for Life** began its Lenten campaign on February 18th and, it will run through March 29th in 19 countries and in all 50 states, including seven sites in Michigan. The closest abortion center to us is in Sterling Heights, at the Northland Family Planning Center, 3810 17 Mile Road, Suite #1. The center is ½ block west of Ryan Rd, on the south side of 17 Mile Rd. 40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life, community-based campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion.. Karen Schenk has several **Pray to End Abortion** posters with the 40 Days logo on them should you want to participate. **Note:** The Feb 18 to March 29 campaign credited 632 babies saved this year.
- The 2,000 Cross Display once again will be on display on the front lawn of SMOTH from June 20 – July 5th. Our K of C SMOTH Council will sponsor the LIFESPAN outreach display.
- **Rochester Area Neighborhood House (RANH)** are searching for three additional individuals; 1. Co-manager of the Clothes Closet, 2. A volunteer coordinator, and 3. Counselor. There will be a new capital campaign and the RANH 5k run will be October 25, 2015.

- **Red Cross Blood Donation** - No other report.
- **Evangelization**: The ***Christlife*** "Discovering Christ" 7 week session concluded on March 12th, successfully run by the committee and volunteer facilitators. A day long retreat was held on Saturday, 2/28 at St. Irenaeus Catholic Church, which is also participating in the program and retreat. The next series will begin on April 16th and is called "Following Christ", and done by the same group from Baltimore. Registration information will be available in the bulletin.

Submitted -

11 April 2015 Mark Joyce