

# St. Mary of the Hills Christian Service Commission

June 20, 2015

## Minutes

**Facilitator:** Mark Joyce

**Note Taker:** Volunteer

**Members present:** Grace Keane, Debbie Jackson, Joan Cashman, Mark Joyce, Judy Rhoads; also special guests Bill Travnik and Mary Wimsatt

### Old Business -

- 1. Chapel Prayer** – Grace resent the template for construction of the prayer service this week, which can help make the task of creating and leading the commission-led prayer.
- 2. Almsgiving - 2016 Lent.** 2015 Lenten program of CRS Operation Rice bowl was a global outreach and discussed, raised approximately \$4200 for CRS; several felt that this is appropriate especially since our directed almsgiving starting with CCRT in May is more local in focus. Will return in September to continue the dialogue towards the making of a recommendation for 2016 Lenten giving.
- 3. Pastoral Survey** – Reviewed parish needs survey, “The Giving of Ourselves”, the link to which is [Open in Docs](#). Of topics on survey it was mentioned that parenting skills could be an added question to be included. The survey will be refined and then prepared by Jennifer (our webmaster) or another web-savvy person to put into an email blast, put on our website, and also create paper surveys. This should be ready to go within a month. Afterwards data will be gathered, compiled and summarized to be reported to our commission as well as the Parish Council by time of return from summer break in September.
- 4. Project Manager** – An announcement was released this week. See this in accompanying email, a Publisher document. The manager role will be split between Renee Ries and Kate Wydeven who are parishioners with children who will work on developing and deepening our parish’s care for the poor and vulnerable. See announcement for details.
- 5. Fall ‘Retreat’** – Much discussion about this with calendar apparently not workable for October (stewardship fair, and parish council events). Mission, sub-committee, level of interest; Grace to look at calendar and targeting a date later in year or next, possibly spring 2016.
- 6. Seasonal Giving:** Further discussion about ‘directed, individual’ collections. Joan reported outcome of May-CCRT collection was positive. In future May will be flexible and maybe include Lifespan, (which Karen has said should be held in October this year as it is Respect for Life Month), and wondering if KofC will want a directed month. Bill T. to look

into this with the Knights. June is Children's Village currently running, with plans for S-O-S collections in July and in August, School Supplies.

7. **American Red Cross Blood Drives** – Sal had reported in an email that the HFRS South campus site was approved by the A.R.C. and that the next drive would be held there. It is hoped that this can be the new home for SMOTH ARC Sunday blood drives.
8. **South Oakland Shelter (SOS):** Discussion of any ways to provide needed support. Looking for an update as we draw closer to the August SOS homeless event dates 8/7 to 8/16.

### **New Business -**

1. **Plan for Stewardship Fair** on Oct. 10-11 – plans to be discussed in September.
2. **CSC Team** - succession for 2015/16 – new team members?, Mark & Joan moving...need a representative to attend parish council starting September.
3. **New Business reports** – See below.

Next meeting: Saturday, September 19, 2015

Have a great summer break!

## **Committee Reports**

**LifeSpan - RTL—LIFESPAN Baby Shower as one possibility to consider during Lent or perhaps for a weekend or two during October** (Respect for Life month). Numerous pregnancy help centers are the beneficiaries of this 'shower', which helps in restocking much needed baby supplies. Lifespan has been holding the shower for over 25 years on the second Sunday in March, and any donation is gratefully accepted! We can, however, hold a **shower** any time convenient for us. Lifespan assigns every parish one beneficiary, which varies based on need and geography. The *baby shower* is a fancy term for *gift collection*.

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Debbie)** - During discussion of food pantries, Matchan Nutrition Center was discussed. This is located on Woodward in Pontiac and is a food kitchen that is funded primarily from Oakland County parishes, FEMA, individual donors and special

event fund raising. Last year they served over 28,000 meals, serving infants to seniors in need, with about 1/4<sup>th</sup> being homeless. They are always looking for volunteers to assist.

**St. Michaels Food Pantry (SMFP) (Amy)** - Food drives will continue to be held throughout the summer, on the first weekend of every month. SMFP is always very appreciative of our donations.

**Rochester Area Neighborhood House (Cheryl)** - Ranh is still very busy serving the community...working on capital campaign...if u know of someone w a few 100,000 laying around let me know.. everyone have a fun blessed summer...

**Evangelization (Mark)** – Christlife’s “Following Christ” seven week session ended on May 28 and the committee met on June 11 to a pot luck wrap up dinner and follow-up to the year. “Sharing Christ” will begin October 1st and run through November 12 and include a November 7 retreat, and conclude the 3-module Christlife series prior to Thanksgiving. The whole program will repeat in 2016, starting again after Christmas with “Discovering Christ”. All are welcome to participate, or help facilitate if they feel called (especially those who have been through the first program). Please continue to pray that this will be a transformative program for our parish.