

Title: Christian Service Commission Meeting

Date: October 15, 2016

Place: West Overflow (usually)

Length of Meeting: 7:45 (hospitality) 8 AM Chapel Prayer, 8:40 – 9: 40 Meeting

Enrichment Possibilities:

Members were requested to review the assessment section “Pray Together” from the Bishops’ website <http://www.wearesaltandlight.org/assessments/pray/> and come prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

Review of Sept. Minutes:

Bill Hill volunteered to be the chair of the group and to represent the group to the Council. The group accepted this proposal.

We discussed suggestions for Lenten almsgiving 2017. We should choose something regional this year as we were local in 2016 [Matchan], and global in 2015 [Rice Bowl]. No decision was made but this needs to be decided in Nov.

Projects/Committees/Reports:

We reviewed and discussed Mercy in Action Day and decided we should follow-up with a similar day next Fall at St. Mary’s even if the Vicarate does not choose to repeat the event. We also discussed the possibility of on-going interface to the Grove Crest Assisted Living facility. [Pizza, bingo, connecting the knitting group were some of suggestions.] We need a lead person for this.

There was discussion of the need for toothpaste and brushes at Hope Warming Center. Sr. Grace will follow-up with the parishioners who made the recommendation.

SVDP is submitting two families to the Archdiocesan “Adopt-a-Family” program. They went through training for MEAP assistance program. There are no plans for bundle collections this Fall.

Right-to-Life conducted a prayer vigil Oct 1 in front of Church [26 people attended]. Days-to-Life is on-going with groups praying in front of abortion clinics. Nearest one to us is at 17 Mile and Ryan. Karen reported that 26-28 clinics have closed over the last year.

Karen was requested to draft an article for the bulletin on Human Trafficking based on the conference she attended.

Discussed plan for a baby shower for We care in March. Karen will work on publicity.

RANH conducted an open house at their new location. The facility is greatly expanded. They are still in need of capital funds for some improvements on the front of the building. Motion accepted last month to send to Charitable Giving Committee.

Charitable Giving :

Sept. Covenant House, Baton Rouge Catholic Charities, Kids Against Hunger Coalition are in alignment with CS Survey priorities of Hunger, Homelessness, Health . CGC meets every other month.

Chapel prayer rotation / Guest rotation:

The Council would like us to outline our goals, mission and accomplishments. Christian Service will host next April, however, we decided to devote November meeting to the goals and mission and will select our prayer, reading and song with a theme in January and to keep in mind it will be Easter.

Karen sent a summary on Self Study Questions for Commissions/Committees/Ministries from December, 2015 to aid in the discussion of our Mission Statement next month. [It is attached at the end of the minutes.]

Sister Grace is going to ask the other program leaders to join us to go over their projects. We want to be better informed and maybe they will be more active with us at our Sat. meetings. Stephen Ministries scheduled for January.

Other :

We discussed the food bank at St. Michael's and supporting the Inter-Church Women food bank. We need to assess the needs in both locations and decide if the parish can support two food banks. After the meeting, I discovered that both food banks have bins in the clothes closet so it appears we are supporting both already.

We discussed the Ministry Fair and decided we would request three tables. One to focus on Christian Service Commission [Cheryl], one for SVDP [Betty], and one for Right to Life [Karen]. We should bring brochures and pictures. After the meeting, I thought about Stephen's Ministry as well--we should see what we can add about them. We should wear Mercy-In-Action T-shirts. Representatives were asked to cover different Masses on the weekend of Oct 22/23.

Bread for the World letter writing will take place during Ministry Fair. Offering of Letters will occur at Mass on the last Sunday of the month. Deliver to home offices before the Election.

Draft calendar for 2017 to be prepared by CS Office and Cheryl Bida will take charge of graphics. Karen Pfeffer is working on Mental Health Resources.

Cyn Ferrera and her Committee are working on Giving Tree. Her daughter will be mentoring into the role.

Next meeting date Sat. November 19

Wrap-up:

We should discuss support for the Called and Gifted Workshop. Laura is looking for individuals to explore their skills and talents.

Respectfully submitted –

Bill Hill, Chairperson, Christian Service Commission

Attachment 1

Christian Service Commission Template

- MEMBERSHIP
- MISSION STATEMENT
- 2015/2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- 2016/2017 GOALS
- ROAD BLOCKS/CHALLENGES
- ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO REPORT

Attachment 2:

Self Study Questions for Commissions/Committees/Ministries

What is your organization's mission?

Mission of Christian Service:

Our mission is to provide corporal works of mercy through Catholic faith messages and passionate messengers in ways which share the love and mercy of Christ with our neighbors. We want to provide opportunities for parishioners to participate in these works of mercy and deeds of justice.

Is your organization currently fulfilling its mission? If not, what is needed to fulfill its mission?

We achieve this through a number of organizations with parish reps and committees of varying size. They include outreach to food pantries, soup kitchens, Giving Tree annual gifts, several catholic charity outreach organizations including St Vincent de Paul, Neighborhood House, and CCRT to name only a few. An entire week each year is devoted to housing guests from the South Oakland Shelter (SOS). In addition we host several blood drives each year with the help of the American Red Cross, and we continually educate parishioners about the sanctity of life from womb to tomb while supporting pregnant women and those with young babies. We also support several 'respect life' organizations to help with educating children and adults about the value of all lives. Peace and justice is also emphasized for the care of all mankind.

How do you assess the leadership of your organization? How is the leadership selected?

How does your organization attract/recruit new members? Who is responsible for recruitment?

Leadership is encouraged by everyone, but the chairperson is either elected or asked to serve by the Parish Pastoral Council. All of us are responsible for recruiting new members to a ministry by personal invitation or through periodic stewardship fairs. Each person plays an active role on the commission via his/her ministry.

How are new members trained on the work of the organization? Who is responsible for providing training? No formal training is needed, but as a person serves in a ministry, he/she learns the needs of an organization and how best to respond in a Catholic manner to serve those in need and grow the love of Christ. The Christian Service Coordinator has begun individually meeting with new members to orient them to the commission.

What talents is your organization lacking that it needs?

We could use someone with more understanding of creative website design in order to help all of us better communicate our messages in a timely fashion. We also need talented individuals to assist with general event project planning, implementation, and public speaking.

Does your organization need additional members? If so, why? We can always use new members to broaden our services and spread the Catholic gospel message. This will help SMOTH parishioners evangelize in our communities and neighborhoods. We also need new members to assist with event planning and implementation.

What could your organization achieve with additional members? We could expand our services to new people/groups when we bring in more members who come with great passion to serve.

12/19/15