

Christian Service Commission
Minutes of November 18, 2017

1. **Unleash the Gospel Discussion/December assignment**
 - a. Foster a spirit of cooperation by working together in collaboration with the Holy Spirit
 - b. Develop a closer relationship with Jesus by attending to the Sunday Scriptures and Sacred Liturgy
 - c. Connect the challenge of the Sunday Scriptures to Works of Mercy and share that story
 - d. More conversation on 'The Good News meets the Daily News'
 - e. Sr. Grace will circulate a draft of the December Module 3 presentation.

2. **Advent Message Series / Lent Almsgiving – Catholic Relief Services Operation Rice Bowl**
 - a. AMS theme is "Expect the Unexpected". Encourage volunteers to pay attention to the surprises of God as the parish community engages in works of mercy. For example, there will be Christmas Caroling at Grovecrest, with an opportunity to pray and reflect before and after that work of mercy. Volunteers are encouraged to share 'their God experience' with family, work, school and parish community. Some parishioners will pray intentionally (some of the time) for the residents at Grovecrest Assisted Living, others will advocate (some of the time) for Seniors, Mental Health, Homelessness, Human Dignity, others will visit at Grovecrest (some of the time) (direct service), others will provide Giving Tree items, (indirect service). Together we pray, reach out, learn, and act. Stories will also be included on p.10 of bulletin.
 - b. There will be an e-meet on Lent Almsgiving.

3. **Renewing the Vision**
 - a. Mission and Pillars check in.
Commission oversees the implementation of Prayer, Education, Advocacy, Outreach both direct and indirect service as it aligns with priority concerns around hunger, homelessness, mental health and the full scope of respect life. Project reports are submitted by email.
 - b. Communities of Salt and Light from the USCCB. <https://www.wearesaltandlight.org/>
 - c. Clarification on the CS organizational chart will take place in January
 - d. Deep dive follow up in February
 - e. Volunteer Recruitment strategy in January
 - f. Communications: Annual Calendar/Monthly Highlights/Social Media
Publish annual calendar in January and continue with monthly highlights on page 10.

4. **October Minutes / Outreach Work Group**

Some sections in the minutes need further refinement and will be visited in December.

Outreach Work Group aligns each project with Works of Mercy and Catholic Social Teaching. It tracks funds from Offertory collection, collects suggestions for Outreach Projects, communicates with CS Commission, and notifies lead organizer of the Funding Request form. December projects are Grovecrest Caroling at which time Giving Tree gifts will be distributed, Paint and Carpet Cleaning at CCRT, Serve lunch at Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries.

5. **Additional items**

CSC will recruit for shoppers and a lead organizer. For example a shopper provided underwear for Hope Warming Center. The 'goods' were brought to the parish and Mercy in Action participants delivered the items in conjunction with their tour and toiletry kit assembly project at HOPE. Shoppers submit receipt and requisition form to the CS Office. A parish check is then issued to the shopper. The funds are tracked through the Outreach Work Group. There is a diaper shopping project for Baldwin Center and United Way under consideration. Deliberations expected to conclude within two weeks.

Ongoing Topics

Refugee Resettlement Project/ CCRT Advisory Board / SOS additional support / Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers / Inter-Church Women/ Local sister parish / Haiti Mission Trip /

In attendance: Cheryl Bida rep, Adriana Fernandez, Sr. Grace Keane recorder, Betty Maciejewski