

Christian Service Reports

March 2018

Corporal Works of Mercy when accompanied by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit provide opportunities for Missionary Discipleship. Survey priorities: Hunger and Homelessness, Mental Health, full scope of Respect Life.

Mission: Provide opportunities for prayer, service, education, and advocacy as inspired by our Catholic Faith in exercising the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. We strive to do this by sharing our passion for Christian Service in word and action with our neighbors.

PRAY TOGETHER

Each month the Pope's prayer intention is posted to the narthex bulletin board. Some months the graphic is posted to the message board. Most Fridays, intercessions are prepared for the Rosary group. The intercessions are based on the Christian Service monthly calendar. The POF writers are notified as well. Pope Francis' April intention is that economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.

REACH OUT TOGETHER Encounter Diversity, Ecumenism, Leadership, Community

Publicity for Crossroads Care Center Benefit Event on March 2 was in the bulletin and website. The parish staff participated in a day of service at Grovecrest Senior Care, followed by lunch and reflection on next action steps. One staff person volunteered to interview the administration to ascertain its needs for the residents and institution. We are looking for another parishioner to join the effort. James Archey, parishioner and student at Notre Dame Prep, organized and executed a very successful special Food Drive for Gleaners. On April 3 St. Mary's will host a Play Day with the Mamous Family from Syria: games, music, lunch, outside activities.

LEARN TOGETHER Catholic Social Teaching, Get the Facts, Discern the Call

The Round Table in March led to an in-depth conversation on Racial Healing: consequently, there will be a Spring Series starting on Thursday, April 19, 7:00 PM in the East Overflow to explore attitudes and actions around racism. A timely project as we remember the 50th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. There are numerous resources on the USCCB website. Notes for Neighbors comes from the US Bishops every other month with links on many issues and it is posted to the parish website. Recommended reading is a book entitled Inside Islam: A Guide for Catholics 100 Questions and Answers. The Christian Service Office also has a documentary film series on Islam which parishioners may borrow at any time.

ACT TOGETHER Service and Relief, Advocacy, Preaching, Community Development

Do continue to follow Pope Francis' two year campaign about migrants and refugees: Share the Journey. The Refugee Resettlement Mission of North Oakland Catholic Parishes with a team at St. Mary's is planning a Play Day with the Mamous Family on April 3. This year the parish almsgiving focused on Catholic Relief Services Operation Rice Bowl. A snapshot of events for the month is published in the bulletin and on the website through the monthly highlights. April is a busy month for all kinds of activities so please check sign up genius for opportunities to serve in Jesus Name: Blood Drive, HOPE Shelter (we needs cooks and servers), John R Road Clean Up and SVdP Bundle Weekend.

The **Charitable Giving** committee meets every other month. Disbursement amount for March is \$3,068.95:

SVDP 1000.00, Cristo Rey HS 300.00, Loyola HS 300.00, International Rescue Committee 475.00, Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust 475.00, Mercy Ships 475.00, SMYG (SAW) 43.95

The **Outreach Work Group** received \$ 944.29 from the February Offertory to disburse. The latest expenditure was to Grovecrest \$301.85 for the Bingo and Pizza lunch hosted by the Staff. Parishioners often choose to make a donation so the actual cost is sometimes higher than recorded. **OWG** disburses funds to local charitable organizations where parishioners have had the opportunity to experience life on the margins in their encounters with HOPE Warming Center, Grovecrest Assisted Living, Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries, CCRT- Catholic Community Response Team, and CCSEM-Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan Hispanic Outreach. Meals, Personal Care Items, Gift Cards, Painting CCRT, and Back Packs have been distributed. Through these encounters, parishioners have met the poor Christ in our neighbors seeking housing, struggling with homelessness, seniors at assisted living, and families with young children. We are grateful that partner agencies are helping to address root causes; thus restoring hope to those most in need. Next month parishioners will be returning to HOPE Shelter not only to serve dinner but to bring personal care packages. Often HF students are asked to participate by filling the packages; we add prayer and stories from HOPE to stimulate the conversation.