

St. Mary's Christian Service Commission Minutes
November 29, 2016

Members present: Lorie Bronson, Fred Fedorowicz, Barb Griffith, Glenda Gentner, Ann Fraser, John Castiglione, Jennifer St. Bernard, and Connie Janus.

Guests: Fr. Louis, Lorie Holden, Bernie Smith

OPENINGS:

I. Opening Prayer:

- Lorie opened our meeting and led the members in reciting an Advent Prayer.

II. Introduction of Parish Pastoral Council members;

- The PPC members presented the Parish Vision Statement
- There was a discussion on the Vision statement and we were asked to give our feedback. Any further feedback should be directed to Fred and he will pass it onto the PPC

III. Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes were accepted as written.

OLD BUSINESS:

I. Bereavement Ministry – ‘Good Mourning’

- John Castiglione passed out the minutes from the Bereavement Ministry’s meeting
- He reported that there have been 22 deaths
- There will be a program entitled “Grieving with Great Hope”
 - “Grieving with Great HOPE” is a five-week grief support workshop for anyone who is grieving any kind of loss in life
 - Sponsored by Monroe Funeral Homes and St. Mary Parish
 - Presenters: John and Sandy O’Shaughnessy

II. St. Mary Organic Garden

- Lorie reported that our first-year garden was a success.
- Home grown produce was shared with God Works!, The Lord’s Harvest Pantry, St. Joseph’s Food Closet, Oaks of Righteousness and the gardeners themselves.
- Plans for 2017:
 - increase family participation
 - Start plants from seed with help from different groups such as, Saturday Morning special needs group

III. Hospitality Committee

- Barb said the ministry is off to a good start
- More team members are needed- send names to Lorie or Barb
- Team leaders and members need to be aware of the instruction/direction sheets to avoid confusion

IV. Transportation Committee

- Lorie Holden will head up this ministry with Bernie S., Gay C., John C., and Lorie B.
- Parishioners will be contacted to ask for assistance in transporting those that need a ride to church
- People are needed for each weekend Mass
- People can be occasional drivers and for certain mass times

V. St. Joseph Food Closet

- Fred reported that he contacted John Collino, the director
- The pantry is well stocked now
- St. Mary St. Vincent DePaul is making monthly donations of money and sometimes food
- John Collino said they have a running ad in the Vicariate newsletter and are satisfied with the support they are receiving

VI. St. Vincent de Paul

- Jennifer reported that they need new members
- There will be an article in the Chronicle asking for people to join
- Biggest need is help with making home visits which requires one male and one female per visit

VII. Craft Show

- The 2016 show brought in between \$3100.00 to \$3200.00
- The funds were divided between In the Spirit of Giving and St. Vincent de Paul
- Our school will take over the leadership of the craft show beginning next year
- Funds from the craft show will go to the school

VIII. Peace and Justice Committee

- Hunger Banquet
 - Over 200 people attended
 - Certain people complained that it was connected to OXFAM America, which it was not, but caused an uproar
 - Peace & Justice committee decided not to host another Hunger Banquet for the Confirmation students next year.
- Persons with Disabilities
 - At a recent mass, at an unnamed church, a deaf interpreter was told they could not sign at the service because it was too distracting
- In the Spirit of Giving
 - Lorie reported that they received a large donation of furniture and beds from the store that is now occupying the former United Furniture building.
 - IHM sisters are looking for another location to house this ministry that would have heat and electricity

NEW BUSINESS:

I. Giving Tree

- Lorie reported people are needed to help with delivery at 9 am on Dec. 17

II. Health Ministry

- Christmas Flower delivery to the homebound and those in extended care facilities
 - A poinsettia flower and Christmas card will be delivered to people beginning the week of December 4.
 - Several people volunteered to help deliver the flowers and cards
 - Barb talked about how rewarding it was when she delivered them last year
- City tri-parish formation on depression
 - Lorie, Deacon Mike and Susan Lyke are working together to have some catechisis and support for those suffering depression.
 - We held a discussion on what it would entail
- From Death to Burial

- Part three will be on Ethical and Legal Issues will be held in January 11, 2017 in the PLC at St. Mary
- 2 probate judges, 2 attorneys 2 priests as the panel
- Jail Ministry
 - Fr. Louis Reported he and Deacon Mike Hammond have taken over this vicariate ministry and gave credit to JoAnn Allor for her many years of service
 - There is a training from the A of D with 12-14 people attending
 - There is a need for male and female volunteers
 - Another group, Second Chance Disciples, currently ministers, but Fr. Louis said we need a Catholic ministry to meet the needs of the Catholic residents
 - Current needs:
 - White crew socks
 - Stamped Christmas cards for residents to mail
 - Fr. will check if we can mail cards to the inmates
 - There will be an article in the Chronicle asking for stamped Christmas cards

OPEN FORUM:

- Christian Women
 - Barb gave a Jan. – Sept. report from the Christian Women
 - There have been 21 funeral luncheons
 - Assisted a soldier and his family
 - Also, the Winners of The Gift Card Raffle will be drawn on Wed., Dec. 6
- Women's Retreat
 - To be held March 10-12 at St. Paul's of the Cross-Retreat Center
- Church Cleaning: Dec. 12 beginning at 5:30 with pizza in the PLC and cleaning in the church at 6 pm
- Books will be distributed at all the Christmas Masses: "Resisting Happiness" by Matthew Kelly
 - Book wrapping session on Wed., Dec. 14 at 1 pm in the Social Hall
 - People are needed to pass out books after the Christmas Masses

CLOSING PRAYER:

- Members recited the closing prayer.

Next Meeting:

- January 24, 2017 at 6:00 pm in Lorie's office.

Minutes submitted by: Connie Janus