

St. Mary's Christian Service Commission Minutes
April 25, 2017

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

OPENINGS:

I. Opening Prayer:

- The meeting was opened with the Opening Prayer.

II. Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes were approved with one correction: Strike the last sentence under Old Business, in Mrs. Claus' report.

OLD BUSINESS:

I. Bereavement Ministry

- John Castiglione reported they are involved with 38 families
- The ministry sent out Easter cards and made personal contacts to the current families.
- Members of the ministry met together as a group
- A reporter from the Michigan Catholic will be writing an article on our Bereavement Ministry as it is unique and first of its kind. They will include pictures of a funeral without publishing any faces.

II. Grieving with Great Hope

- Another session will begin on September 28, 2017

III. God Works!

- Lorie reported in Fred's absence that meals are going well with a few snags every now and then.

IV. Hospitality

- Barb reported that the teams are working well.

V. Mrs. Claus

- Stephanie reported that requests are slow right now but they have had some requests for utility and rent bills but they referred them to St. Vincent de Paul and other agencies.
- They distributed some bus tickets and gas cards.
- They have several winter coats available that were not used last Christmas. It was decided not to collect coats next year.

VI. Organic Garden

- A meeting was held last week with Bob Dluzen, the community garden coordinator.
- Seed planting will begin using toilet paper rolls that can then be transplanted in the garden.
- Several people have volunteered to help with the garden but more are needed.
- The produce harvested is shared with God Works!, The Lord's Harvest Pantry, our homebound parishioners and the volunteers that tend the garden.

VII. Peace and Justice

1. Disabilities

- Connie discussed the plans to begin a Special Needs ministry. At present, they are exploring other programs around the diocese. They will be visiting a 'No-Shush Service' in Lake Orion and meet with the coordinators.
2. In the Spirit of Giving
 - Lorie reported that they will be moving from the gym to the power house on the IHM property. There will be heat, electricity and a bathroom at this location.
 - She will explore a Facebook page after the move.
 3. Refugees awareness/formation
 - Lorie shared that they are in the process of obtaining speakers to help others understand the differences in other religions.

VIII. St. Vincent DePaul

- Jennifer thanked the Christian Women for the work they do at the Wednesday luncheons. She said they are the main contributors that keep this ministry sustainable.
- Doug has been working on getting people to the camp. There are articles in the Chronicle referring to the camp.
- The ministry will begin introducing two members at a time in the Chronicle in hopes that it will generate discussions about the ministry.
- Food calls have diminished.
- They need a secretary and someone to help with the treasurer's duties.

IX. Transportation

- Drivers are especially needed for the 9:30 and 4:30 masses.

X. Jail Ministry

- Fr. Louis was not in attendance to give a report

XI. Respect Life Work - Baby Bottle Donations

- It was decided that donations be donated to Heartbeat and New Beginnings.
- Names of possible chairpersons were given to Lorie

NEW BUSINESS:

I. Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

- Lorie reported that there is a need for people to help distribute communion at the hospital.
- There is a training for new EM's to be held on May 1 at 1:30, in the Social Hall.

II. Stephens Ministry

- John handed out information on this ministry and explained that this ministry has been in existence for more than 30 years.
- There are more than 12,000 congregations that have a Stephens Ministry.
- John explained the intense training required to become a certified church.
- A discussion was held on this ministry compared to our Bereavement Ministry

OPEN FORUM:

I. Prayer Shawl Ministry

- Glenda showed us samples of the lap blankets made by some of the members.
- She reported they need yarn and material to make the shawls and lap blankets.

- Lorie suggested they put an article in the chronicle asking for yarn and material.
- The prayer shawls will be blessed and distributed at the 'Anointing of the Sick Mass' on May 6, 2017 at the 4:30 pm mass. Prayer shawls and lap blankets will be available at that Mass for those who are anointed.

<u>Action Items</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>
Write article for the Chronicle	Lorie

II. Paula's House

- Lorie reported Paula's House has lost a great deal of federal funding.
- There is a fundraiser with a silent auction on Friday, April 29 at the Monroe Country Club.
- Lorie will talk with Paula's House to see how we can support the program.

<u>Action Items</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>
Contact Paula's House	Lorie

CLOSING PRAYER:

- Members recited the closing prayer.

Next Meeting:

- June 27, 2017 at 5:30 pm in Lorie's office.

Minutes submitted by: Connie Janus