

## **St. Mary Christian Service Meeting on February 28, 2017 Report:**

Meeting was called to order by Lorie Bronson at 6:05.

The opening prayer was led by Father Louie using the prayer card from Mark 1:15 passed out by Lorie and the Prayer for Lent on the back was recited.

The only correction to the minutes was a clarification on previously reported Christmas Cards with stamps. Stamped cards will no longer be accepted. The inmates must purchase their own stamps. This has to do with security reasons.

**Old Business** The following *up dates* were given from *Standing Ministries*:

**Mrs. Claus** – Stephanie reported that all went well and they serviced 50 families with toiletries, cleansing supplies, a meal and gifts. They are noticing that housing is becoming a concern as they are servicing people in motels and a campground. They work throughout the year and have recently given a chair, couch and a bed. A question arose about how the budget is handled because it is under the St Mary's finance committee. Stephanie explained that the Treasurer keeps track of the budget. They do not spend any more than their income. Receipts are submitted for payment every three months. Approximately 80 members pay \$150.00 to belong but in addition many donations of varying amounts are accepted by the group. Wrapping of gifts is done at St Mary's and the group is under the umbrella of St Mary. This group is separate and different from the Giving Tree at St Mary. They work from referrals of the ISD and Early Head Start programs, also the middle schools. Information was distributed to the entire school consular throughout the county. It is a quiet private group existing about 5 years; no publicity is involved they work because "It is the right thing to do."

This is also separate from the St Nick's club which has about 50 contributors started in the 60's. They spend about 75 thousand dollars and their names are obtained through the Salvation Army.

**Jail Ministry** – Father Louie reported that their mission is to bring the Sacraments to those in the Monroe County jail system. Right now Father Louie celebrates Reconciliation and Eucharist every two weeks. Currently the volunteers are involved in 3 training formation sessions. There is a need for the Catholic ministry in Monroe County but changes are being made from the ministry of Deacon Mike Hamen to Father Louie. St Mary parish is providing the space for the formation sessions in our PLC; the budget comes from the Monroe Vicariate. Volunteers will be needed in the future; they must be in good standing in their parish and have letters of recommendation from the pastor of their parish and also a criminal background check. Father Louie asked that the sock donations, at Christmas, be continued next year, also that we pray for the success of the Jail Ministry in Monroe. He also requests that specific prayer for the inmates and this Ministry be included in the General Intersessions during our Sunday Mass.

**Bereavement Ministry** - John Castiglione reported that they are in contact with 33 families of loved ones that have passed on since June.

A Christmas party was hosted by Jo Ann Laboe and was welcomed and enjoyed. Easter Cards will be sent to the grieving families. People were open and receptive to the 5 weeks session Grieving with Great Hope. We are seeing several of the families returning to church. The facilitators are complemented on doing a great job in this Ministry. Also some new members have joined the team.

**Parish Outreach** to the homebound will again be giving Easter cards and plants.

**God Works** point person, Fred Fedorowicz, reported a need for Narcan training class for all the God Works point people and will follow up on this to the Health Ministry.

**Hospitality Committee** is working well and had a part in the setting up and cleaning up of the Parish Appreciation Dinner. Also exposure to the Grieving with Great Hope session, while providing refreshments, was favorably received.

**Organic Garden** was worked on by 6 families. They are looking for someone who understands plants and would oversee the planting times. The fruits of this garden were shared by the God Works meals and also given to the parish priests. Fr. David expressed an interest to be more involved. Marie would like to set up a table at the MCES open house to encourage the school families to become more involved. Next fall they hope to share the produce with the elderly of the parish and the homebound whom are no longer able to maintain a garden.

An article in the **Michigan Catholic** mentioned using high school young men to serve as pallbearers for families that do not have enough family members. At this time the service does not seem to be needed and the students should not be pulled from their classes.

**Peace and Justice Committee** is working with Jim Palmer of the IHM leadership team to relocate the Spirit of Giving facility. The new place would have heat, water and a bathroom! Many older people cannot work under the freezing conditions now available. There is a group for Senior Volunteers called RSVP. Perhaps some of the Christian Women of our parish would consider being a part of that group and working In the Spirit of Giving.

Work on a disabilities workshop is moving forward. We have a Saturday Morning Disabilities group and they are working on how to find more people to come and participate.

The parish is trying to be more welcoming to all people in effective ways. Increasing the availability of the hearing devices in church would be one way to do this.

**Transportation Committee** - Lorie Holden said 4 or 5 parishioners were taken care of at this time but more adults willing to give rides are needed. Especially needed are people coming south from the Carleton area.

**Christian Women** just completed their Baby Shower for Heartbeat of Monroe. A very generous gift of diapers, clothing, accessories and money was collected.

### **New Business:**

The first Sunday of **October is Respect Life Sunday. Heartbeat of Monroe** is asking that baby bottles be distributed in church to be filled with donations. This would also support an organization in Ida that allows mothers- to-be stay and then bring back their new baby with them.

**Peace and Justice Committee** has concern for the Syrian refugees settled in the Detroit Area. We have a responsibility to these brothers and sisters of ours; they are a part of our Catholic Community in the Detroit Diocese. This does have an impact on our Catholic Charities. A speaker from Catholic Charities may be brought in for a session to explain the conditions and treatment that forces these people to leave Syria and seek refuge elsewhere. Handouts from the Michigan Catholic, Lansing Diocese's Faith Magazine, and Pope Francis Team on the Church position of Immigrants and Refugees were shared.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent readings are especially appropriate. Pay close attention to the March 12 readings. There will also be an insert in the parish Chronicle.**

There is training for **Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick**  
Monday, March 6, 2017 at 1:00p.m. in the Social Hall  
Monday, March 13, 2017 6:00p.m. in the PLC

On March 25 at St John the Baptist Parish there will be an **Anxiety and Depression Workshop**. Left over toys from the giving tree will be donated to help babysit the children.

**Habitat for Humanity** will be doing a build this spring when the weather is cooler. At this time there is no building site Fred reported.

Next Christian Service Meeting will be Tuesday, April 25. New members are welcomed and encouraged!

Report prepared by  
Barb Griffith March 1, 2017

