

HUMAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING

November 15, 2016

Prayer/Intentions

Present: JoAnn Presta, Mary Kral, Diane Miller, Marlene Vlosak, Sue Boivin, Vickie Schroeder, Linda Varner

YEAR OF MERCY: The Year of Mercy focus for November is Pray for the Living & the Dead. The Year of Mercy, which ends this month, was very successful. It seems to have been tailor made for the Human Concerns Committee.

MINISTRY UPDATES:

- **Giving Tree:** The tree is up. Dec. 4 is the last day to bring in gifts.
- **Reformation Lutheran Church:** Adventure Day is coming up. It's like a Christmas party, held at Reformation Lutheran, with crafts, cookies. Deb Schneider is looking for about 10 St. Paul youth to participate. It was suggested that she make our new youth minister, Bill Snyder, aware of this need. We are also looking for people to donate Christmas cookies, 1 to 2 dozen apiece, to be dropped off at the parish office on Dec. 2nd by 4:00 p.m. If there are more cookies donated than are needed for Adventure Day, the Reformation Lutheran kids can take the leftovers home to their families or the church can use them for any other activities it may have coming up.
- **Hope Center:** Cindy Beauchamp went to Hope Center with some of the leftover food from the Spaghetti Supper (cookies and bars, bread, lettuce). (Sauce was frozen and will be given to the organizers of the sophomore retreat on 12/2-3).
- **St. Clare School – Sister Parish in Peru:** The committee bought books in the Spanish language from the recent St. Paul Book Fair to send down to our sister Parish in Peru.
- **St. Bens Community Meal and Casa Maria Hospitality House:** As usual, both got money for groceries, from the Loaves & Fishes collection.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

The committee wants to approach each ministry for its think-outside-the-box wish list, i.e., special requests (example, last year Casa Maria needed a new refrigerator). The needs might not all be for material things. If an agency that is served by a St. Paul ministry has the need for some volunteer labor, for example, the ministry can propose that we help out.

There was discussion of what the office can do when an individual (non-member) walks into the office seeking financial help. The office has a few gas and gift cards in the safe for this purpose, but can be referring people to the Hope Center.

Our planned Ministry Fair is probably going to be held a little after Easter. It was suggested that committee members talk to their friends in other churches and get their ideas on what has attracted people when they've held a similar event.

A focus for next year ought to be having each ministry chair prepare a job description, or someone on HC can write up a first draft and present it to the ministry chair for editing, to make this easier for them. These job descriptions can be available at the ministry fair. The more specific we can be about what a volunteer job entails, the better, in terms of duties, hours, etc.)

PASTORAL COUNCIL UPDATE: Linda Varner and Vickie Schroeder reported that Pastoral Council has begun to set goals. A suggestion was made that Parish Council review goals that may have been set as part of the Strategic Planning and see if some of those can be re-vitalized. Rather than having all new goals, see if some old ones haven't yet been carried out and focus on some of those.

CLOSING PRAYER

Next Meeting Tuesday, December 13, 7 pm., Parish Office.

Notes taken by Vickie Schroeder