

Social Action Ministry

January 18, 2010

Present: Dottie Knechtges, Mike Tomko, Jean Tierney, Maryann Ketchesin

1. Opening Prayer...all Prayer to End Poverty
2. LCFB....Maryann...the Furniture Bank is closed this month. The board is working on its next steps.
3. CACLC...Maryann & Dottie,...We will have the Peace & Justice Dinner in March this year. DATE: March 20th. Mark Fahringer continues as the chair of CACLC and is keeping the committees going. The Board is choosing to go ahead with CACLC presence in Lorain County. Our supplies, information etc. is now in the Guardian Angel Bldg. at St. Mary along with First Friday Forum. We do not have an executive Director since Sharon Kleppel retired and it looks like that is the way it will stay for the present time. There is money for rent and utilities presently.
4. HEALTH ISSUES....Maryann...We continue to take around 30 blood pressures each month. We were highly praised from Community Health Partners/Parish Nurse for our work and effort in confronting folks especially with High Blood Pressure. On February 14 we will hold a WELLNESS HEALTH FAIR in the Weigand Room from 9:00 – 1:00. We will have vendors present. We will do blood pressures plus offer, men PSA test for \$9.00 and Lipid/cardiac tests plus Glucose for \$6.00. No one will be turned away because of cost. Parish Nurse will pick up the cost through CHP.
5. HOT MEALS...Mike...We have had fewer folks the month of January 35 at Salvation Army and 53 on January 12. The weather ?? The program has become more viable since the volunteers plan the menu for a month on the first Tuesday of every month. Mike knows the supplies. At present they have a good stock of supplies and paper products. Plus a good reserve in the bank.
6. HOSPITALITY CENTER...Mike ...On MLK day 2009 19 families picked up food. Today 26 families. August 2009 was the month with the largest number of families served...475. September 471, October 419, November 447. December 291 (were closed one week). Plus the meals served at St. Mary. Many of our folks from Hot Meals and Hospitality Center took advantage of the meals. So far this month we have served 204 families. HC also received \$2000 from an organization. St. Mary PTU has been very generous. For all their activities folks bring canned goods for HC. What is missing is toothpaste, brushes, shampoo, soap, dishwashing soap etc. Will plan our next drive for these items. Maryann will work with Peggy for a flyer.
7. HELPING HANDS....Not present
8. SOWERS OF JUSTICE...Dottie ...the committee is in the process of producing a CD on Catholic Social Teaching. It is interesting and looks worthwhile. Don't have all the information on making the CD at present or how to promote. More to come later. This meeting has members from St. Agnes, St. Jude and St. Mary.

9. St. Joseph Catholic Homeless Shelter....our parishioners are very generous both with paper products that I committed our parish to (bowls for cereal/chili/soup, spoons and napkins) and for the food itself. Each month I receive calls from someone who has not profited by this ministry before.

NEW BUSINESS...Jean ...There is a dinner in the planning stages to help Fr. Gus, the missionary we heard several months ago at Mass to help with some of the products he feels are needed in Hati. Now more than ever. More to be revealed as the plans unfold.

Next meeting: February 15, 2010 St. Mary Parish Center Conference Room at 8:00 pm

Sincerely,

Maryann Ketchesin, Secretary