



# ST. MARY HUMAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE

## 2020 February Ministry Reports

**MISSION STATEMENT:** As members of the St. Mary Human Concerns Committee we believe, as disciples of Jesus Christ, that all human beings are created in the image of God. Because of that image, each of us, regardless of where we live or the color of our skin, have the God-given right to live with dignity. We believe everyone must have access to the material things necessary for a decent and fulfilling life. Because we follow Jesus Christ, we accept the obligation to work to make our parish a focal point for charity and justice because that defines who we are as Catholic Christians.

### MISSION 15

#### January 18-20, 2020

**Parish Twinning Mission with La Sagrada Familia** (Deacon Wilson Shierk). The team of 31 people from Kenosha and other cities in the Milwaukee Archdiocese as well as friends from the states of Illinois, Minnesota, Texas, Florida and California spent a week providing eye health care to over 900 local residents and completed 89 surgeries. The group included 5 doctors, 2 local doctors, college students, health-care professionals, teachers, and retired people who volunteered to “go on Mission” to our sister parish in the Dominican Republic. In addition, we helped build a home for a local family. We have experienced the joy of touching the lives of others and the satisfaction that our desire to “Make a difference” in the lives of others has increased our faith. Thanks to all who helped us complete another successful mission experience.



*“Sing to the Lord a new song—not a melody, not words. It is the song of our life. It is allowing our life to be identified with that of Jesus Christ. It is sharing his sentiments, his thoughts, his actions. And the life of Jesus is a life for others. It is a life of service.”*  
--Pope Francis

Shalom Center (Deacon Wilson Shierk)



• The Shalom Center is always grateful for donations towards our programs. Lists of things we are in greatest need of at this time can be found on our webpage:

<http://shalomcenter.org/get-involved/donate-supplies>

- **There have been no openings in the INNS and Emergency Family Shelter Programs for many months.** Requests for housing are placed on a waiting list and then the Shalom Center helps individuals and families utilize other community resources until they have an opening. The neediest

individuals are housed before other adults. Kenosha Human Development Services provides the options available and works with Shalom to offer temporary housing.

- The new **Food Pantry** will be finished this month. **An open house celebration will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 beginning with a ribbon cutting at 10:30 and open house at 11:00 am.**
- Year-around funding is essential to maintain quality programs. Continue to pray for Shalom's success and financial support to maintain our quality programs.
- **Fr. Mike Newman will be honored** as a Shalom Center Food Pantry volunteer in April. More about that later



**Shalom Center-Data for 2019** (Deacon Wilson Shierk) **October, November, December and January data are not yet available.**

- FOOD PANTRY  
SEPT - NA
- SOUP KITCHEN & NETWORK  
SEPT 5753
- INNS PROGRAM  
SEPT 51 people, 938 nights
- EMERGENCY FAMILY SHELTER (EFS)  
SEPT 12 Families (23 children) = 754 shelter nights
- INNS EXIT TO HOUSING %
  - 2016 – 15%
  - 2017 – 36%
  - 2018 – 56%

**Shalom Center-Soup Kitchen & Network-Meals that Matter** (Bob Naidicz, Deacon Wilson Shierk, Marion Matoska)

*St. Mary Parish at the Shalom Center - always the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.*

- Dec. 11: Adults-59. Children-13. Total=72.
- Jan. 8: Adults-64. Children-38. Total=102
- Volunteer are always needed to help serve the evening meals from 5-6 pm each day in five local churches around the city, in addition to the Shalom Center site.



**Shalom Center-300 Club** (Deacon Wilson Shierk):

- As of February 1, our 300 Club total is \$134.75.

**Ministry of H.O.P.E. & The Sunshine Ladies** (Pat Dolan)

(Helping Others Provide Encouragement). *The Ministry of H.O.P.E. consists of three great ministries: Sunshine Group, Meals After Hospitalization, and the Funeral Luncheon Group.*

- Ministry of Hope hosted Hospitality at the Feb 8th and 9<sup>th</sup> Masses.
- Sunshine Ladies always meet the first Monday of each month to send cards to St. Mary's families and friends. Join us!
- Sunshine Ladies are always looking for names of people that need a cheerful card. Call the Parish Office with names.



**Elizabeth Closet Ministry** (Deacon Wilson Shierk, Pat Dolan)

- Served 15 clients this month.
- The next distribution date is Friday, March 6 from 9:00am-10:30am.
- Received donations from Beth Hillel Temple's Social Action Committee. They organized a "Baby Shower" in January to benefit the Elizabeth Closet.
- Some of the Lenten Matthew 25 collections will support the Elizabeth Closet.



**Prayer Shawl Ministry** (Pat Dolan, Linda Cheney) *To create prayer shawls for those in our parish family and community, as a gift for Healing, Protection, Strength, Courage, and Celebration. To bring Hope, Comfort, Peace, Love, and Prayers through the work of our hands.*



- Our next meeting is Sat, February 22, at 9:00am in the Parish Center.

**Giving Circle**

- This year we were able to help 219 families!
- Look for our Thank You bulletin insert to be distributed around Valentine's Day to St. Mary, St. Mark, St. Elizabeth and St. James parishes.
- Many excellent suggestions were made at our wrap-up meeting on Jan 13 including expanding the shopping & wrapping



opportunities, developing fundraising events, and improving the delivery system.

- For 2020 we will be concentrating on giving gifts to the children up to age 19 with gift cards for adults and a family gift.
- If you have any questions or suggestions email or call me (Kathy Holtz) at 694-2051

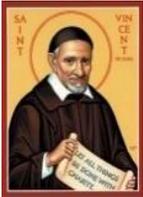
#### Health Ministry (Deacon Wilson Shierk)

- We need people willing to share their professional information in a variety of topics with the parish.
- A **new Educational Concerns Committee is forming** that will provide educational options for our parish. Stay tuned!



#### St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Conference at St. Mary

(Deacon Wilson Shierk, Linda & Mike Cheney, Dick Guenther)



- The SVDP Store's Emergency Food Pantry continues to offer food to all adults who request food at any time the store is open. Also "Feeding America" delivers perishable food to the store every Wednesday morning.
- The Pantry now has a cooler and a freezer to store additional perishable foods.
- Thanks to all who help with the outreach program. We continue to receive generous donations from the parish and from individual parishioners who financially support this ministry.
- Our Emergency Closet is well stocked with hygiene items, our intake persons distribute items to clients who have asked for help, and financial support from Fr. Roman and many parishioners continues to fund our operation.
- Volunteers are always needed at the store on Wednesdays, or any time a volunteer is willing to help with store projects. Call Lisa, store manager, to volunteer.

#### Adopted Families (Deacon Wilson Shierk)

- Sophie continues to struggle with health issues. She is currently trying new medications that will better help her develop a healthier lifestyle. She also receives vitamin shots weekly as her body is not able to digest vitamin tablets.
- She doesn't always take the full dosage of meds as she runs out before she can afford to re-purchase



them. **Her meds usually cost about 300-340 per month.**

- Recently she has been able to get a newer car but is struggling with monthly payments for the car and her meds. Sophie has just begun a second job on the weekends to help pay for the car.
- Her young son Aiden has been in the hospital 3 times since the holidays with flu concerns,

**CUSH-Congregations United to Serve Humanity** (Sandy Milligan, St. Mary Representative to CUSH Board & Deacon Wilson Shierk) *An interfaith coalition actively living our faith and values in pursuit of justice through advocacy, education, and empowerment. It is an affiliate of the statewide WISDOM Network.*



- Two major events coming up:
  - **Leadership Training for Young Adults on 5 Fridays - February 28, March 6, 13, 20 and 27. During these sessions, people will learn the basic concepts, attitudes and disciplines needed to become community leaders capable of making real change.** Sessions will be from 5:30pm-8:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church 7104-29<sup>th</sup> Ave. Kenosha. This is our second time doing this and the young adults who attended the last series in the Fall thought it was very beneficial. We had a lot of students from Parkside and Carthage but would really like more involvement from our congregations. Fr. Roman mentioned the need to involve our young adults at St. Mary's. I would like to see all members of the Human Concerns Comm. to pass this information along. (Flier attached).
  - **SAVE THE DATE: CUSH and the Racine Interfaith Coalition will be hosting a *Prison Reform Summit at UW-Parkside on Tues. March 24.* WI has one of the highest incarceration rates in the country - reform is desperately needed. Details to follow.**
- Questions about refugee & immigration? Visit the new **Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services Website** at [riscmcke.org](http://riscmcke.org).
- **Sandy will be stepping down as the CUSH Board Member for St. Mary's and is looking for a replacement.** Please let me know if you are interested in serving.



**Shalom Center/INNS/Emergency Center:** Nothing to add.

**Shalom Center/Statistics:** Nothing to add.

**Hope/Bereavement:** A funeral luncheon will be held Wednesday for Dr. Slana's mother in law at 6:00 pm. Meals are needed for Pat and Dan Conder, soft food. Get well cards are sent the first of the month. Get names to Janice Schmidbauer.

**Elizabeth Ministry and Prayer Shawl:** The bag of medals were given by Christine and Tom Genthner, not Dick and Deanna Guenther.

**Health Ministry:** Nothing to add.

**SVDP:** Thanksgiving collection will go the SVDP Outreach this month.

**Adopted Families:** Sophie needs a car.

**CUSH:** Sandy will no longer be on the CUSH board. She was very happy of all who attended the Young Adult Leadership Service. Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> is the CUSH Prayer Vigil for International Migrants Day at Civic Center Park.

**Jail Ministry:** Monies from St. Mary and St. Peter's given to the chaplain. There is a Bible group with women from Russia, South America, etc. attending. Very happy with new chaplain.

**Starfish Project:** Nothing to add.

**Giving Circle:** Coming soon. Discussion held. St. Mark had it in their bulletin for three weekends in a row in English and Spanish. The Wolf's from St. Mark's are unable to attend this year due to family obligations and they are big part of the Giving Circle.

### **Announcements**

- 1) Christmas Party at Wilson and Sylvia's on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.
- 2) No meeting in January. Next meeting will be Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Next Meeting Monday, February 10, 2020**

Meeting Leader: TBD

Opening Prayer: TBD

Scripture Reading: TBD

Closing Prayer: TBD