

# Human Concerns

## Annual Report to Pastoral Council

### May 2019 – May 2020

- I. **The Human Concerns Committee** is guided by sacred scripture and our tradition of Catholic Social Teaching that calls us to serve others. In that spirit, Human Concerns:
- Discerns the needs of people, especially those who are poor, hungry, homeless and affected by social inequality/injustice.
  - Identifies resources and offers opportunities for active service.
  - Educates and inspires parishioners on issues of justice and peace.

## II. Committee

Marianne Miller, Co-Chairperson

Suzi Dowd, Co-Chairperson

Janet Edwards, Secretary

Jeff Ellington, Pastoral Council liaison

Christine Baar

Robin Gleason

Kris Bachmann

Barb Krumrai

Kate Burke

Kathy Libert

Kathleen Callan-Brady

Jackie Timm

Clare Dundon

Kathy Waters

## III. Ministry Updates (Partners in Mercy designated by \*)

### A. Earth Ministry

1. Earth Ministry maintained a weekly presence in the bulletin and on Facebook posting about Creation Spirituality.
2. Earth Ministry partnered with Lifelong Faith Formation to create the August Children's Bible Camp that focused on Care for Creation. Family Program implemented the use of reusable plates and utensils on Monday evenings.
3. The Garden of Hope was able to donate produce to Pewaukee Food Pantry and MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary from May – September.

### B. Family Promise\*

1. A new director was named in Fall of 2019 promising new stability to the organization.

2. Family Promise's lease is up at their Wales location in August 2020. They are hoping to raise enough funds to secure a permanent location in Waukesha that would allow them to house homeless families onsite instead of making them move weekly from one church location to another.
3. During the pandemic, the focus of Family Promise shifted to preventing homelessness in Waukesha County by providing financial assistance for rent/mortgages, utilities and some transportation requests. This will be a focus of the organization moving forward.

### C. Giving Tree

1. A new program coordinator has stepped forward and trained under the former coordinator. This year she was able to lead the effort with minimal assistance.
2. A review of the agencies supported by this popular holiday event will occur over the coming months as new needs are realized as a result of the pandemic.

### D. Health Ministry

1. Successful blood drives were held in June and December 2019. The drive scheduled for June 2020 is on hold until Archdiocesan directives allow gatherings at the parish.
2. The new coordinator for Blood Pressure Screenings is fully trained and has assumed responsibility for the running of these monthly events. Screenings will resume when the parish begins to hold Donut Sundays again.

### E. Human Trafficking Initiative\*

1. A Human Concerns subcommittee worked tirelessly to create a plan for educating parishioners about human trafficking in Southeastern Wisconsin as well as provide volunteer and advocacy opportunities.
2. An educational event targeted towards middle school through high school students and their parents was scheduled for April 26, 2020. The focus was on the role of social media in trafficking teens and young adults in our area. Due to the pandemic this event will be rescheduled.

### F. MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary\*

1. Progress has been made in completing the first floor of the MBHS building. They hope to have it open and fully operational by Fall 2020. Currently they are serving clients through a Front Door Ministry that provides bag lunches, canned goods and hygiene products on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
2. The Friday meal program is still held at Hepatha Lutheran Church. Before the pandemic approximately 100 hot meals were provided weekly along with clothing, nursing care and financial advice. This program was closed in mid-March due to state directives. The hope is to re-open the program this summer.

## G. Mental Health Initiative

1. A working partnership has been developed between NAMI-Waukesha and St. Anthony on the Lake.
2. The parish was a host site for NAMIs “Family to Family” program that provides support to families who have a loved one suffering from mental illness.
3. Additional opportunities have been put on hold due to the pandemic.

## H. Peru – Santisimo Sacramento\*

1. The annual pilgrimage to Peru was held in October 2019. A full shipping container was shipped in August 2019. Due to the pandemic both of events are canceled for 2020.
2. The parish currently supports 357 families in Peru with monthly food packets. Parish families sponsor 12 students at the parish school and help to pay the salaries of staff in the physical therapy and speech therapy clinics.

## I. St. Hyacinth Food Pantry\*

1. 25 parish volunteers work at the pantry each week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The pantry temporarily closed due to the pandemic but was able to reopen on May 12<sup>th</sup> with safety guidelines in place.
2. The family food co-op program was piloted last year after a request by Hunger Taskforce. It is very successful. Currently there are 25 families enrolled in the program.
3. Outreach funding reflects the \$300 per month donated by the parish to provide hygiene products that are not covered by government funding.

## J. St. Vincent de Paul\*

1. Over 40 home visits were made to individuals requesting financial assistance with rent, utilities, car repair or home maintenance. Due to the current economic conditions caused by the pandemic these requests are increasing.
2. The monthly meal program has served over 2,000 meals in the past year. Meals were also served at the Hope Center in Waukesha and through the Summer Lunch program. The program has temporarily closed due to the pandemic.
3. Drives were held throughout the year to collect school supplies, winter coats and household items.

## K. Substance Abuse Team

1. The Substance Abuse Team was created after the parish dissolved its involvement with Common Ground. The team is headed by Deacon Dennis Petrie.
2. The team has created a resource information page for substance abuse on the parish website. Information and events are regularly posted in the bulletin and on Facebook.
3. Members of the team spoke at a January Family Program to parents and high school students about opioid and heroin addiction.

## L. Young at Heart

1. The group continues to grow and has increased the number of people on their planning committee. Several successful events were held from May through February. The pandemic has caused the cancelation of summer events.
2. The walking program has been discontinued due to a lack of interest from the parish.

## IV. Outreach Funding Allocation

Outreach funding is budgeted annually through a process involving both the Finance Council and Human Concerns Committee:

1. In Spring, the Finance Council identifies an annual Outreach Funding Allocation in the parish budget for the coming year.
2. Having received this number, the Human Concerns Committee reviews its funding priorities and determines how to divide this allocation amongst various ministries.
3. This process is normally concluded by June 30<sup>th</sup>, but due to the pandemic many organizations needed additional financial assistance in May and April.

### **Outreach Funding Allocations for 2019-2020:**

- Catholic Ecology Center: \$1,000
- ERAs Network: \$1,000
- Family Promise: \$1,925
- Franciscan Peacemakers: \$500
- Healing Hearts of Waukesha County: \$250
- MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary: \$2,500
- Open Door Café: \$1,200
- Pewaukee Food Pantry: \$1,200
- St. Hyacinth Food Pantry: \$4,500
- St. Joseph Medical Clinic, Waukesha: \$925

**Total Outreach Funding FY 2019-2020: \$15,000**

## V. Challenges

The Pandemic

- Increased need for outreach services and financial support to provide these services.
- The April Human Trafficking event had to be postponed until 2021. Young at Heart social gatherings were canceled. The Catholic Charities Lenten Luncheon was canceled.

- Parishioners came forward with requests for helping those in need during these challenging times. Many of these requests did not align with parish policy or Archdiocesan directives during the shutdown.

## **VI. Goals**

- Identify a member of the Human Concerns committee to serve as the liaison to Family Promise by May 2020. INCOMPLETE
- Identify organizations for potential social justice education and volunteer opportunities by November 2019. COMPLETED
- Identify parish ministries that will be seeing a change in leadership over the next 1-3 years by February 2020. COMPLETED
- Hold Human Trafficking Event in April 2020 POSTPONED
- Create subcommittee to review and assess current Partners in Mercy for 2020-2021 year by May 2020. PENDING