

Tri-parish Human Concerns Committee Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2022

St. Joseph, Lyons

Minutes taken and submitted by Eileen Gabriel

Attendance: Dee Baumeister, Eileen Gabriel, Julie Koenen, and Kathy Rivest – Tri-parish Council Representative

The meeting began with prayer. Introductions and welcomes made.

Old Business

The contact form was reviewed. Under the Love Inc. Meal Program sub-committee it was noted that Mary Coppennoll of St. Mary's had shared that she co-chairs this committee with Holly Reesman. It was proposed that Holly's identifying information could be added. It was also noted that clarification of the chairperson for the St. Vincent de Paul sub-committee needs to be checked since Jacki Scholze in a written communication questioned that accuracy. Follow-up is recommended. Under the category of Office Contact it was shared that Sue Vrzan at St. Mary's is now using the svrzan@ourblcc.org address for communications. That should be updated on the contact form.

New Business

- **Archdiocesan committee audit** was discussed based on the limited information available. None of the participants were knowledgeable about this topic. All agreed that a review could be beneficial for identifying inadequacies or updating by-laws and guidelines for each committee as needed. It was noted that if the approach is exclusively virtual, it may be more difficult for some groups. Attendants agreed that they will wait for additional information as it becomes available.
- **Lent 2022** was discussed. St. Mary parish will be supporting their twinning parish in Uganda by collecting funds to help the parish – St. Joseph in Naggalama to furnish a kindergarten program at their school. St. Charles parish will be conducting Operation Rice Bowl to benefit Catholic Relief Services. These choices are repeats of similar Lenten projects from previous years. St. Joseph is currently exploring what they will be proposing. Several ideas were shared but further discussion and information gathering was needed. Ideas named were possibly collecting financial support for an orphanage in Haiti or a twinning parish in the Dominican Republic.

Committee Reports:

- **Outreach** chairpersons reported. Eileen Gabriel shared the 8 agencies recently supported by the fifth Sunday collection in January 2022 at St. Mary parish. St. Joseph parish identified 5 agencies, displaying financial support for mainly local agencies and one global recipient. Some discussion developed on how charitable recipients are identified. The importance of making sure that our dollars are going to the intended cause rather than to administrative or fundraising efforts was identified as very important in the decisions made. Jacki Scholze sent appreciation to the Outreach committees' efforts on placing reports and thank yous in our tri-parish bulletin.
- Dee Baumeister reported on **Pro-Life** noting that a very small group assembled on January 23rd to stand in opposition of abortion on busy street corners. She noted that it was a very cold day. Sue Novasik of St. Mary parish provided the signs. It was noted that this committee has done a nice job of having frequent news on this topic in the tri-parish bulletins.
- A written report submitted by Mary Coppennoll of the St. Mary committee for the **Love Inc. Meal Program** follows after these minutes. It was read at the meeting. It was noted that at this time, St. Joseph's is not involved in the Love Meal Program.
- No one was present to report on **Pastoral Care** but Jacki Scholze wrote that Mary Labadie's **Helping Hands** committee at St. Charles does an excellent job at providing care to the elderly in the parish. She

also wrote that there are three people presently providing communion to hospital patients and a few shut-ins with the **Hospital Communion committee**. It was noted by Jacki Scholze that additional volunteers are always welcome to join and have training.

- No representative was present for the **St. Vincent de Paul** committee. As noted earlier, the leadership for this group needs to be explored.
- Julie Koenen briefly shared about the **Prayer Network** at St. Joseph parish. It was noted that the weekly invite in the tri-parish bulletins emphasizes the care for their parishioners.
- **Catholic Teaching on Social Issues** – tabled for an upcoming meeting.
- Dee Baumeister shared about the **Prison Ministry** that she and Mary Ann Johnson have been involved in. They minister to female inmates at Robert Ellsworth Correctional prison in Racine County. Sister Karen, a Racine Dominican nun is the director of the Catholic Outreach Program. Father Frank from the Sacred Heart Monastery in Hales Corners says mass once a month. They use a series called Living with Christ. Dee and Mary Ann attend between 9:00 and 10:00 am one Saturday per month. Weekly readings, prayers of the faithful and a communion service is the main format. They have been unable to be active with this ministry since the beginning of 2022 due to covid concerns but hope to get back into it once again when it is safer.

Closing Prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meetings: June 14, 2022, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Andre Hall, St. Charles

October 11, 2022 6:30-7:30 p.m. Heim hall, St. Mary

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Gabriel, substituting for Jacki Scholze

Mary Coppernoll submitted this report on February 2, 2022:

I am happy to report that St. Mary has participated in the Love, Inc Meal Program each month since it reopened on a limited basis in October 2020. I sign up for the second Wednesday each month and Love, Inc provides takeout containers for us to use. We package warm meals in Heim Hall and then transport them to the Love, Inc Meal Site for distribution. We have been packaging between 40-50 meals each month. We also provide 100 cartons of milk (cafeteria size) that our volunteers generously purchase each month.

There are currently 46 volunteers signed up to participate in the meal program at St. Mary. We schedule 11 people each month who are assigned a main dish, side dish or dessert. We also have 13 people willing to help package and serve meals, 3-4 are scheduled each month.

Holly Reesman, co-chair of St. Mary's Love, Inc Meal Program, and I provide the menu which is used for three consecutive months. The menu for January, February and March 2022 is Scalloped Potatoes and Ham, Green Beans Almondine and cookies. We provide the recipes to ensure the proper quantity is on hand for generous meal portions. Holly coordinates with Ray Alderman & Sons dairy in Union Grove for milk each month and Karen Alby picks it up and delivers the milk cartons to Love, Inc meal site. We are blessed with very dedicated volunteers.