

J&H Meeting 10-16-18

Present- Kay Schumacher, Father Bob Kabat, Mary Connors, Jeane Smits, Sarah Cross, Mike Westenberg, Jackie Thiry

Meeting started with scripture readings from "At Home with the Word" for October 21. Discussion question was "In what ways have you been able to serve others instead of self? Thoughts included:

- This issue of the Justice Herald listed many ways we can serve others.
- St. Matthews offers opportunities as part of its mission.
- Be open to change. Several people shared experiences of changing plans because of needs of others.
- Be able to let go and be present for others.
- Focus on the greater good and hopefully recognize the moment of being able to serve others.
- The two scripture stories, the Good Samaritan and Mary and Martha are good examples.

Catholic Social Teaching – Kay S. shared the article, Our Kids, Our Future: a Foreword, found on CCHD web-site, Povertyusa.org. Child poverty is a problem in the US. Children make up 23% of the US population but account for 33% of the population living in poverty. Yet there is no long term national strategy to address it or the negative outcomes associated with it. In comparison with twenty-One other middle and high income countries, the US ranks second to last in spending on families. Reducing child poverty is not only the right thing to do but necessary for our nation's future economic success.

Parish Council report- Minutes are posted on the web-site at stmatthsgb.org. There was no October meeting due to council volunteering at Feed My Starving Children. The collection of snow pants and boots will occur in November. The plan is to give items to schools where teachers from our parish know there is a need.

Haiti- The 3rd weekend Mass collection in December will go to Hands and Hearts with Haiti. Janet Smith is putting together a display of pictures from the celebration of the school opening in Noyau. The display will be in Gathering Space sometime in November or December. They are still looking for two volunteers to chair the Taste of Haiti Dinner.

Joshua- Jackie reported in Rachel's absence on the following:

- Housing Task Force had its 1st meeting. Lots of knowledgeable people around the table: case workers from St. John's Homeless Shelter and Micah Center, Freedom House representative, social workers, Fair Housing Center representative, plus those who want to work on issues. Several people shared their concern of homeless people/families who have housing vouchers and cannot find someone to rent to them. Group discussed top 5 issues and the top 3 issues people were willing to work that were identified at Housing Issue Night. Group would like input from landlords.
- On Thursday, September 27th, Joshua held a candidate forum with the major party candidates for the 88th and 4th Assembly District as well as candidates for the Brown County Sheriff's Race. There were just over 40 people in attendance. Empty seats were put upfront for all candidates who were not able to attend or chose not to. The first part of the forum or lightning round questions were put together by Joshua Task forces and the second half of question came from the crowd. It was disappointing that none of the republican candidates came. And even though we emailed, called, and sent a formal letter to all of them we only heard back from David Stefan that he would be out of town. The highlight for Rachel was leaders being able to submit and get questions answered that is within their self interest.
- Joshua banquet will be held on Friday, November 2, at the Tundra Lodge. Tickets are \$50. Please consider going. Tickets can be purchased on-line at www.joshua4justice.org or at St. Matthews.

St. Vincent de Paul- The 4th class of the Getting Ahead Program will be graduating on 11/13. The 5th class will start on 1/9/19.

Season of Creation- An ecumenical prayer service was held on Thursday, September 27 at the Sisters of the Holy Cross Convent in celebration of the Season of Creation. The planned tour of the Sister's sustainable practices was cancelled due to the weather. However, Sister Rose gave a talk/presentation to those who came early. Approximately 15-20 people besides the nuns came to the prayer service. During her reflection on the environment, Sister Rose kept us mindful of the Creator by having us sing the refrain from the song, Canticle of the Sun after each of her bullet points. It was a beautiful service followed by a gracious social..

Feed My Starving Children- St. Matthew parish participated in Feed My Starving Children 10/1 through 10/4. Saw lots of new faces. Mike reported there were 140 St. Matt's people on Wednesday evening from Generation of Faith. Jeane reported on Tuesday, they went through 8 tons of rice. We all agreed, this is such a unique experience of actually doing something that will have such a great impact on children's lives. Feed My Starving Children organization does a great job of educating volunteers on what happens with the mobilePacks.

Justice Herald: Justice Herald was handed out the weekend of 10/13-14. It was a very practical guide on how to get involved with life issues. Approximately 110 newsletters were handed out. Thanks to Kay S. and Jodi Thiry for handing out after Sunday masses.

St. John Homeless Shelter- The shelter opens up November 1. We will hold our promotion weekend October 20-21. Plan for weekend:

-Speakers are: Bill Evans, 4:30 mass, Annie Stewart, 8:30 mass, and Deidre Egan-Ryan, 10:30 mass.

- Jeane's script was forwarded to speakers as a guide. The "buddy" system will be emphasized..

-Mike will pick up mat and bin along with banner for Gathering Area display.

-Jackie will provide copies of volunteer tasks

-Sign-up table coverage is: Jackie, all masses, Jeane, 4:30, Mike, 8:30, and Kay S, 10:30

-Sign up sheets will be designed to show "buddy" system.

-Coverage for Sunday, November 4, (if no one signs up) will be: 1st shift, Father Bob and Jeane, 2nd shift, Jackie

Faithful Citizenship- COVO (Coalition of Voting Organizations of Brown County) let us use their voter information display tri-fold board. It has been on table in Gathering Area since October 6. Copies of "Get ready and vote: Helpful resources" are available on table by tri-fold. Mike will put Faithful Citizenship reminders in the next three weekend bulletins.

Citizen Climate Lobby- Jackie shared Eric Genrich, a Green Bay Mayor candidate, was coming to CCL's meeting this month. He is excited about the new Green Bay Sustainability Commission (formed with the leadership of Joshua Environmental Task Force) and wants to discuss possible climate actions in our community. Jackie asked committee members to fill out a constituent letter to members of congress voicing their concerns on global warming. The letters will be presented to our congress representatives in November by CCL during a Washington DC lobby day. Please put letters in J&HC mail box by end of October.

Food Drive- Mike asked for help on Saturday, 10/20, noon to approximately 2:30, to unload postal food drive truck at Lambeau Field (by Ridge road, yellow truck) and re-load to truck going to St. Pat's pantry. Boxes of food will then have to unloaded at St. Pat's. Call or e-mail him if you can help.

Calendar Review

-Homeless shelter weekend 10/20-21

-Fair Trade Coffee served 10/20-21, 11/17-18

-Hour Adoration 10/29, 11/26

-Joshua Banquet 11/2

-Thanksgiving Ecumenical prayer service, 11/20, 7:00 at St. Matts

-Next meeting 11/20, 6:30