

J&H Meeting 8/20/19

Present: Kay Schumacher, Jeane Smits, Mike Westenberg, Father Bob Kabat, Julie Jacobson, Mary Connors, Heidi Schroeder, Kim McKeefry, Jackie Thiry

Welcome to new members: Julie, Heidi and Kim.

Meeting started by each member sharing a little about themselves. We then read the mission statement together.

Committee Mission Statement

The Justice and Human Concerns Committee of St. Matthew Parish gathers together to pray, learn, reflect and act on ways in which our parish community can affirm and strengthen the dignity of all people. We strive to serve the needy in our parish and beyond its boundaries by collaborating with groups who serve the least in God's kingdom. Believing that social justice is a task for every person of faith, we work to assist parishioners to understand and act on the social dimensions of the Good News in our everyday.

Mike handed out excerpts dealing with the never-ending dance of giving and receiving from the book, No Crystal Stair: Womanist Spirituality, by Dr. Diana L. Hayes. We then discussed what lines or words spoke to us. Thoughts included:

-“to recognize the Christ in everyone. And to reach out a hand, to speak a word of love, etc”.

- It is humbling to realize how just listening and believing in someone has such an impact.
- People recognize your acceptance of them.
- If you show interest and listen, people confide in you. You are seeing Christ in one another.

-“This is the Christian vocation: (from Micah) Only to do the right and to love goodness. And to walk humbly with your God.”

- The need of the moment is the will of God
- St. Matt’s witness of welcoming, praying for the person who started the fire and Father Bob’s thanking Mass attendees are all examples of doing what the Lord requires of you.

-“being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong”

- We are hoping family will accept our aging, letting us continue to live our lives as fully as we can.
- We need to accept our own aging. This is where we are.
- Recognize it is more blessed to receive than to give. Letting someone do for you is difficult.

Action Plans for September, October and November:

Justice & Human Concerns committee has committed to educate themselves on Catholic Social Teaching. One of the ways we have done that in the past is to include a discussion on a topic / current event that is tied to one of those principles at each meeting. Each committee member selected and led a topic during the year. This year we are going to read the book, “A New Way to be Church”. The Evangelization committee used it last year and Mike thought we would enjoy and learn from it. The general theme is” how do you live out your faith outside of church”. We will read the first two chapters and discuss at September meeting.

Season of Creation- “**Season of Creation**” is celebrated by Christian communities around the globe, beginning on September 1, Day of World Prayer, and ending on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. See <http://seasonofcreation.org>. A committee of Michelle Becker from Resurrection, Marge Mattice from Prince of Peace, Barb Shiffer and Pastor Marion Boyle from West Side Moravian Church, Kay Schumacher and Jackie Thiry have been meeting to organize a prayer service. The interfaith prayer service will be held on Monday, September 23 at West Side Moravian Church, 1707 S. Oneida, Green Bay, from 7 pm-8 pm. The Choir director at West Side Moravian, Jason Pue, suggested pulling a choir together from the various churches. To do list:

-Margaret is posting on face book, web-sites and sending out flier and bulletin blurbs to neighboring parishes as well as the Compass.

- Rachel will send out to Joshua members and put a face book events page together.
- Brother Steve Herro will send out to his mailing list of the Faith community.
- Invitation to prayer service will be put in 9/14-15 and 9/21-22 weekend bulletins.
- Jackie will send Annisa creation petitions for the 4 Sundays.
- Jackie will ask Deacon Bob to use a creation prayer during the Holy Hour on 9/30.
- Committee members are asked to bring bars or cookies for the social that will follow the prayer service.

Feed my Starving Children: St. Matthew Parish is a partner church participating in the Mobilepack October 7-10 at New Community Church. There are 12 churches in the area who participate. Registration opens up on 8/25. To volunteer, register at stmatgb.org/fmssc or after masses on 8/25. Generations and school group is signed up for Wednesday evening. Cost for 1 Mobilepack is 22 cents. A \$50 donation will cover the materials for the normal number of meals each volunteer will pack. Each committee member should sign up on their own for the Mobilepack. We agreed to send out to all committee members the date we will be packing so those who do not want to go alone can sign up with someone.

Joshua- Mike handed out information sheets on Prison Task Force, Environmental Justice Task Force and Housing Task Force and encouraged us to join one of the task force if we wanted to make a further justice impact. Coming events are:

- Electronic Recycle event will be held at West Side Moravian on October 5, from 8 to noon. They accept anything metal or anything with a cord. There will be a bake sale held also. E-mail Rachel if you can help out. Shifts run 8 to 10 and 10 to noon.
- Community Canvas was held on Friday, 8/23 from 2-5. They are partnering with St. Norbert "into the Streets" Service Program.
- Joshua Banquet will be held on October 11 at the Swan Club.

Haiti- Kay reported there is lots of unrest due to the increase in cost of living. The larger cities are seeing demonstrations. Goldsmith is doing well. Her focus is empowering girls. She is meeting with different age groups on a weekly basis. They are developing friendships and building relationships.

Justice Herald: The 1st issue of the Justice Herald will be under the umbrella of "Seeing Christ in everyone". Possible articles include the Homeless, Immigration, and Prison Reform. Specifics and timing will be decided at September meeting.

St. John Homeless Shelter- The shelter opens up November 1. We will hold our promotion weekend October 19-20. Focus will be on educating the parish on all the volunteer opportunities at St. John's, Micah Center and Wellspring. Julie will get a list from the volunteer coordinator which will be a bulletin insert on St. John's weekend. Father Bob will talk about the list and encourage people to find their niche. We will again offer the "buddy" system, pairing new volunteers with seasoned volunteers. The proposed visual is the "Do you see me" signs that have been used on sidewalks this summer. Mike will check on getting them or something similar as well as the mats and bins again.

Calendar Review

-8/26, 9/30 Hour Adoration

-9/17 Next meeting

-9/21-22 Fair Trade Coffee served

-9/23 Interfaith Season of Creation Prayer service

-9/27 Feast of SVDP Mass celebrated at St. Matthew at 8:30. Short 6 blocks Walk for the Poor follows
Mass with social to follow.

-10/5 Recycle Event

-10/7-10 Feed My Starving Children