

J&H Meeting 2-13-20

Present- Mark Schumacher, Kay Schumacher, Mike Westenberg, Jackie Thiry

Book Discussion: A New Way to Be Church – Chapter 4; Decided with the small group, we would carry this chapter forward to next meeting.

Parish Council report- Parish Council did not meet this month. Mike filled us in on the status of the proposed community garden at St. Matthew. It is on hold right now. The plot of land along Webster Avenue is smaller than the normal community garden plots. This makes it hard for the organization that manages them to break even. The fees for renting a spot would not pay for the tilling and oversight.

Haiti- Golds Mithe is in Minneapolis with her family seeking asylum. She was the Community Development Director for Hands & Hearts with Haiti in Mirebalais. Father Romel has hired someone to take her place. Velde started last Saturday. Golds has been mentoring and introduced Velde to the micro loan program. Velde does not speak English. Golds will continue to work for Hearts & Hands. The Community Development Director salary will be split between Velde and Golds at this time.

Ann Galvin has joined Hands & Hearts and is helping with the Taste of Haiti dinner.

Joshua- Affordable Housing meeting highlights:

Again, spent lots of discussion on the need of affordable housing which is in short supply in Brown County. Megan Borchardt, a county supervisor, shared there is task force made up of GB mayor, County Executive, Greater Green Bay Community Foundation and Brown County Housing Coalition. This will be more like a 5-year plan and group wanted to address the current 246 adults and 73 families that are currently homeless (last official count). In 2017 Milwaukee county passed a Fair Housing Protection resolution. It said landlords could not refuse section 8 housing vouchers or rent help from churches. They got landlord buy-in. Brown county does not have that protection. This sounded doable and productive since many landlords will not accept housing vouchers.

Next steps:

- Post video of information of resolution on Joshua Facebook page.
- Have person who led getting the resolution passed in Milwaukee share at the next meeting on March 5.
- Formulate a landlord survey focusing on question "Would participate in the housing voucher system if there was an incentive" (Note: Funding of incentive would have to be investigated)

St. Vincent de Paul- SVDP is considering having a task force to decide what they can do to help the homeless and housing problems.

St. John Homeless Shelter- The shelter continues to be over capacity averaging 110 guests a night. The overflow sites at St. Willebrord and St. John Evangelist chapel are filled to capacity.

Senate Homeless Bills Advocacy Weekend- This past weekend, 2/15-16, approximately 175 postcards to each of five senators were signed after masses. The postcards addressed to the three committee chairs, Sen. Jacques, Kapenga and LeMahier, asked them to schedule a vote on seven bills addressing homelessness. Sen. Cowles and Hanson were asked to support the bills. Mike put together a packaging summarizing the bills. Father Bob challenged congregation in his homily to take the next step of putting their faith into action. Volunteering at the homeless shelter is needed but advocating for addressing the problem is calling for social justice.

Lent Environmental Calendar- A calendar listing opportunities to educate yourself on the environment or actions to care for God's creation each day of Lent will be posted on St. Matt's web-site. A bulletin blurb promoting it along with a few copies will be done the weekend before Ash Wednesday.

Calendar Review

- Hour Adoration 2/24, 3/23
- Fair Trade Coffee served 3/14-15
- Next meeting March 17

