

J&H Meeting 1-21-20

Present- Jeane Smits, Kim McKeefry, Richard Erdman, Mike Westenberg, Jackie Thiry

Book Discussion: A New Way to Be Church – Chapter 5: Marriage with a Mission, A Sacramental Love Story

Personal insights included:

- Thought it was a radical concept.
- Several shared they were not ready for “mission” thinking when they got married. Were young and still had an immature faith life.
- Others shared their starting point involved their faith so “church” was an important part of their lives right from the start.
- A Mission parish would change all sacrament preparation format.
- Marriage with a mission would have to be part of faith formation. The concept of encountering/accompanying one another on their faith journey does not happen overnight.
- Marriage prep as described in the book should not be mandated. Suggestions and opportunities could be provided.
- Mike shared a story of a couple who were both volunteers at St. John’s Homeless Shelter. When they got married, they delivered a meal from their Wedding venue to St. John’s and then went back to the reception. It was very important to include the guests in their wedding day. Response was WOW.

Note: Next meeting we will go back to chapter 4.

Parish Council report- Minutes are posted on the web-site at [stmattsgb.org](http://stmattsgb.org). January highlights are:

- The Parish Council welcomed Margaret Franchino, the Brown County Community Garden Coordinator, for a presentation of her programs and an exploration of a possible community garden site at St. Matthew. Lots of discussion and information shared. Father Bob will invite Margaret Franchino back to look over proposed site and answer further questions that arose from discussion of her presentation; he will then bring more information back to the next parish council meeting. If the council recommends moving further with planning, it is projected that a community garden at St. Matthew would be planned for 2021.
- Snow pants and snow boots drive: A total of 104 snow pants, 87 pairs of boots and 9 coats were distributed to Head Start, Chappell, Fort Howard, Anne Sullivan, Tank and Baird.
- Over 50 people came to the 6:30 - 8:30 pm” Open Wide Our Hearts” project program at St. Matthew. This program has helped to renew our parish efforts to reach out in meaningful and respectful ways to minority people in our area.

Haiti- Mike shared in Kay’s absence that Haiti continues to be in turmoil. Golds Mithe is currently in the United States seeking asylum. She fled because her family is not safe.

Joshua- Jackie shared a summary of the Affordable Housing Summit.

- Use “good practice” solutions that have worked such as Ecumenical Housing.
- Expand Rapid Housing but include mentors.
- Need economic incentives to build affordable housing.
- Need education of “How to be a good tenant”.
- Need an incentive for landlords to take the risk of accepting those with no/bad credit or have evictions.
- Need a place for micro loans to help with emergencies versus going to a Cash store.
- Provide opportunities for community living.

St. Vincent de Paul- The 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort of Back2Work got underway on January 7. Six associates are participating. Bridges Out of Poverty is being held on February 11 for 16 people. Getting Ahead #7 started January 15 with 16 investigators.

St. John Homeless Shelter- The shelter continues to be over capacity averaging 110 guests a night. Jackie shared information about 8 bills that are in Wisconsin Senate that deal with homelessness. They would add about 4 million dollars for homeless services, providing prevention programs and case management. Bill S 122 passed on 1/21 that will provide \$500,000 in each of the next two years. The rest of the bills are being held up in committee because the committee chairs (Senators Jacques, Kapenga and LeMahier) are concerned about measuring success and tracking performance. Jackie sent out the info needed to advocate for the bills to the committee. Please write and/or call these senators to bring the bills up for a vote.

South American Christmas Craft Sales- This was the best year yet. \$2011.75 worth of product was sold. Jeane and Jackie sold the coffee and candy inventory that was left on 12/21-22. Recommendations for next year: No decaf coffee and pre-package the candy in the bags. Believe people could not visualize. Thanks for all the help this year selling after masses. Sales would not happen without everyone's participation.

Plans for the rest of year- Group decided not to plan anything specific for Earth week. We will support and advertise the Green Bay activities. Feeling was climate change can still be divisive and in the present atmosphere it was better to do something else. Suggestions included:

-Do more advocating. The Homeless bills fit with our connection with St. John's. We could have a table in Gathering Space after Masses with material and maybe a petition. Mike will look over material Jackie sent him. Richard offered to speak on his medical interface with the homeless population.

-Jeane is going to look into a class, Leadership in Green Bay, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. It is a nine month class focusing on living in Green Bay. The idea was to report back to the parish and form ideas how we can help people live a better life in our community.

Mike handed out the request forms for St. Matthew's Outreach Endowment Fund. They need to be turned in by February 21.

#### Calendar Review

-Hour Adoration 2/24, 3/23

-Fair Trade Coffee served 2/15-16