

J&H Meeting 2-21-17

Present- Rachel Westenberg, Kay Schumacher, Jeane Smits, Joey Rickards, Kelly Thiry, Father Bob, Mike Westenberg, Jackie Thiry

Meeting started with scripture readings from "At Home with the Word" for February 26. Discussion focused on how much we tend to worry. Thoughts included:

- It is human to worry about family.
- Praying the serenity prayer helps keep things in perspective.
- Do not think of God as only Omnipotent. He gave us freedom and feels for us. His love is always there.
- Strive to trust that good can come out of most negative happenings.

Catholic Social Teaching – Jackie shared a message from a letter Pope Francis wrote to leaders of grassroots organizations meeting in California. Pope Francis said Christians must resist the temptation to demonize others, protect the earth and fight the invisible tyranny of money that only guarantees the privileges of a few. We each then shared an injustice we are seeing.

- The treasure of the world is held by so few. It seems so many fear "someone" will take something away from them.
- Disowning our neighbors. It is scary how people quickly change to "us and them" thinking.
- Lack of civility. Divisiveness.
- Discrimination
- Lack of relationships within the community causing lack of concern for others.
- That power exists that can instill so much fear in so many causing people to feel helpless.
- Current healthcare debate. Lack of concern for those who need health coverage the most.

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

- \*Feed my starving children- As a participating parish, money will be raised during lent. Packing of food will be held in Howard 10/2-10/5. Generations and the school will participate.
- \*Ecumenical Partnership for Housing- Working on our house. Looking at May for family to move in.
- \*Working on mission statement

Haiti- Kay along with Hillary Rath and John Gracyalny will travel to Haiti on March 17. Hillary hopes to make a connection between Aldo Leopold classes and the school in Noyau. They will be bringing school supplies along. Joey offered a possible contact for a source for school supplies. One of the changes in teaching methods that is being promoted by Haitian teacher training is to go to critical thinking versus rote. School materials are needed to help with process.

Joshua- The Solitary confinement cell is now on hold. They are looking for a location that can accommodate the height of the cell. The first meeting to discuss the Black Forty Mine project was held. Had a very good turnout and people are interested in continuing to meet. A group is working on putting on an educational forum.

St. Vincent de Paul- The inter-Act program is starting. There are eight investigators (individuals who want to change their lives) along with mentors and facilitators who will meet weekly for 16 to 20 weeks with goal of creating a new future. Individual goals and plans, building resources and building community are part of process.

St. John Homeless Shelter- All spots are covered with exception of 1st shift, on 4/16 which is Easter. Father Bob has 1st shift, 4/9, Jeane has 1st shift, 4/23 and Rachel, Ben & Nate will cover 2nd shift on 4/30. Kay will let me know if she can do 1st shift on 4/16.

Justice Herald- Justice Herald- Topic will be advocacy. Articles should be sent to Jackie by Friday, 3/24. Target publish date is for weekend of 4/8-9. Articles are:

-Lead in: Two feet of justice                      Mike

Testimony of advocacy:

-Citizens climate Lobby                      Jackie  
-Voice of the Poor                      Jackie  
-Right to Life                      Amy Weiss  
-Neighbors in Action                      Rachel

Outreach Endowment Fund- There were nine requests for funds from St. Matthew Endowment fund. \$7006.18 is available for distribution and we decided to allot all of it due to the current needs. After discussion, Unity was eliminated because we felt they had other avenues for funding. We allotted money based on need and other resources available to the organization. Extra was given to St. John's Homeless shelter because the increased shelter guests and need for overflow has caused a huge impact to their budget. Father Bob will present the following recommendations to the Parish Council.

St. John Homeless	\$1456.18	Off-set costs of increased guests
Friends of Haiti	\$1000	Purchase Vita-Mamba & bean seeds to help the undernourished.
Hands and Hearts With Haiti	\$1000	Fund school programs & staff salaries.
Joshua	\$1000	Help fund the traveling solitary confinement cell program.
St. Anthony Parish Neopit	\$1000	Help pay parish utility bills along with meeting needs of poor parishioners.
Inter-ACT	\$550	Fund the cost of one "investigator" (individual who is making positive changes in his/her life).
Ecumenical Partnership for Housing	\$500	Help support St. Matthew's first home
Love Life Ministry	\$500	Funds for diapers and other baby needs for low income families.

Calendar Review:

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-Hour Adoration 2/27  
-St. John Homeless Shelter Sunday coverage  
-Fair trade coffee served 2/18-19 & 3/18-19  
-SVDP Saturday sorting 3/11