

JANUARY 2024 CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION REPORT

Present: Ray Busuttil, Dan Gauvin, Mary Nakamura, Sandy Rogala, Toni Sheffield Terri Thor

Absent: Denise Brady, Richard Fullmerhouser and Helen Ickes

Meeting began at 1:00 in the Christian Service Office

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Funeral Lunch

Terri reported for Helen. All is going well and we have a few new volunteers over the past couple months.

Knight of Columbus

Both Ray & Dan reported that things are going well. Weekend of February 3 & 4 there will be a *Coats For Kids Drive*. Not asking for coats, but for donations to purchase them from a vendor who is giving them an incredible deal. This is the same weekend of Pizza Night and Spaghetti Dinner and they plan to have someone attend each event. February 25th in the annual Chili Cook Off. Holding their Regional Meeting in the Parish Hall on Monday, January 22; dinner followed by the meeting. We haven't held the Regional Meeting here in several years.

St Vincent DePaul

Richard unable to attend because of illness; no report.

Outreach

The charities helped this Christmas with gifts and gift cards donated by our generous parishioners were *Loaves and Fishes of Southwest Detroit*, *Franciscan Ministries of Detroit*, and *Vista Maria* in Dearborn Heights. On December 11 Outreach volunteers sorted these donated gifts for about for 135 children for *Loaves & Fishes* and untold number of girls at Vista Maria; total number of children receiving gifts in some form was likely in the 250 range. Also collected were food items for *Loaves and Fishes* and grocery gift cards for the Christian Service Office to distribute to individuals in need. *Franciscan Ministries* specifically requested gift cards for Costco, Gordon Foods and Walmart; total dollar amount of cards donated to them was \$2000-plus. Collection of returned donated gift cards by way of a new lock box outside of the Christian Service Office as well as to "Christmas Carol" by the Giving Tree at all Masses before the December 10 deadline was highly successful and appreciated by parishioners.

Gospel of Life

The AAA Pregnancy Resource Center Baby Bottle Campaign October 2023 has brought in \$7,012 so far. 300 bottles were taken and 27 still need to be returned. Father Jim made an announcement last weekend.

Lighthouse Mission Warming Center is open January 1 thru March 31, 2024. It is at *Full Gospel Temple Church* in Westland. Mike Willis made a Sign Up Genius for volunteers. Tuesday is the day we will be there, 6-11pm.

Patti Kelly has helped with details and using her expertise to make this volunteer opportunity easier.

The first weekend of Lent Almsgiving charity will be Lighthouse Mission . The following are requested items: paper plates and paper soup bowls, white men's socks, winter hats and gloves for men and women (new or gently used).

Livonia Cares has donated \$500 to Lighthouse Mission for a new freezer after theirs broke and wasn't repairable.

Parish Council

Christmas Masses went well including the 4:00 PM Mass with the overflow in the Parish Hall which was full. Worship will be looking into having altar servers' attendance confirmed especially for Christmas and Easter Masses.

Various methods of welcoming newly registered parishioners was discussed.

Deacon Don will be working with parents of newly baptized children to welcome and encourage them to be actively involved in the parish.

Parish office will provide as often as possible the phonetic spelling of names to be read during Prayers of the Faithful.

****Parish Goals and Objectives will be addressed at the February Parish Council Meeting.** Parish committees are asked to review the current goals and objectives and provide input at their January meetings. Toni handed out copies of the Goals & Objectives and asked attendees to make any suggestions they would like to see utilized before the next Parish Council Meeting in February.

Parish Nurse

Mary reported that while the Parish Nurse group has essentially fallen apart, she is working with Patti Kelly regarding programs/speakers, etc. that may benefit the parish (such as speakers about end of life planning, caring for loved ones, etc.)

New Business

Toni reported that a coded lock box is on the Pantry Door and that all three doors to the Pantry have had their locks changed.

We will be doing Lenten Almsgiving for different charities beginning the first weekend of Lent. This year's Almsgiving schedule is as follows:

February 17/18: Lighthouse Mission

February 24/25: Blessings In A Backpack/Livonia

March 2/3: Hope Clinic Lunch Supplies

March 9/10: RTL Baby Shower

March 16/17: Vista Maria

March 23/24: Food Collection for Loaves & Fishes of SW Detroit

Details about what is being collected each weekend will be in the bulletin, on the website and social media pages, as well as on a sign in the Gathering Area.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7th in the Christian Service Office

Submitted by: Toni Sheffield – Christian Service Coordinator