

Minutes for Human Concerns Meeting
October 18, 2017

Present: Steve Obscherning, Craig Griffe, Jim de Guzman, Tom Heller, Linda Bardele, Mary Sermersheim, Ken Kloser, Jan Zettel, Cathy Schaefer, Anna Retzke, Pat Krolikowski

The September minutes were approved.

Tom Heller reported that he received summary information from Ron Braier and that we are on budget.

We had a discussion on the reflection question referring to the Self-assessment section in the "Growing Jesus' Parish" booklet that everyone received. We do outreach through many of our subcommittees such as the meal programs, Habitat for Humanity, St. Vincent de Paul, seasonal collections of food, clothing, school supplies and our Advent giving tree, etc. The question we pondered was – "Are we successfully doing enough with regard to discipleship in being a mission parish?" Ken noted that we're all doing something in getting people involved and to evangelize through the parish. Z noted that we have many people who are doing things to help out our subcommittees such as the meal programs whereby about 90 individuals make or buy a food item to support both of the meal sites.

Our committee, through the efforts of Z, have attempted to put a booklet together regarding all the opportunities and mission of our committee but it never got off the ground.

We had a discussion regarding the criteria of the agencies we support through parish giving and whether or not their mission is the same as ours regarding discipleship during the process of serving others. Does the agency have to be Catholic oriented, etc.? Regarding parish giving, should we align our giving criteria to the Archdiocese which does monthly vetting? Linda is already re-vetting many of the agencies we give to. In that regard, we are going to forgo this month's \$400 donation to Kathy's House as they have recently received a substantial donation. Linda shared a guideline for parish giving which was felt should be revisited and updated. She will have them sent out prior to the next meeting.

The discussion continued regarding our goals in the booklet. There were several points discussed. We need to engage individuals who have volunteered to serve on Human Concerns in a specific mission and to identify concrete ideas for them to do. It was noted that we don't do enough on Catholic social justice teaching, an area in which we have struggled. We've had difficulty recruiting someone to head this important area which is one of the identified needs of our committee. Some ideas that emerged were to use between the masses as a platform to get our message out, praying for social justice, advertising on our website with links, bulletin blurbs, etc. The monthly social justice letter from the Archdiocese is forwarded to all committee members.

Z announced that another social justice program, namely, "Act Justly, Walk Humbly" will be presented by John Neafsey at the Sienna Center on Friday, November 17th beginning at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$15

which includes the program and reception. A portion will be covered from our budget. Z passed out information and sign-up forms. Please contact her if interested and if you have any questions.

It was noted that social justice appears to be the charism of St. Pius. It was thought that spirituality is the charism of Christ King with the many opportunities available to us such as Simply the Word, the Men's Group, small groups, the Mom's group, Women's Prayer Circle, Ministry of Praise, Between the Masses, etc. It was suggested that the Archdiocese may have offerings that we don't know about and whether or not there's an individual we could invite to our meeting. Anna will check into this.

Steve reiterated that he'd like to see "more heart than brain" regarding the mission of Human Concerns. Reports should be emailed to the secretary ahead of time so that we can focus on ideas at our meetings. He requested that we contact him with any new thoughts or ideas.

The dates for the fall food drive (the weekends of November 11/12, 18/19 and 25/26) and the Advent giving tree (the weekends of December 2/3, 9/10 and 16/17) were approved by Father Phillip.

Anna, our representative on the board of Greater Tosa Interfaith, expressed concerns about the financial situation of Interfaith. There have been questionable expenditures on their financial statement. The advisory board has no say as to where the money is going. There will also be more fundraising. The question at hand is whether or not they are being good stewards with our money as we give them a substantial donation each year. Tom Heller will check into whether or not they received our donation this year as they have said they didn't receive it. Interfaith will be merging with SET Ministries at their November 8th meeting, the merger being proposed by SET. Initially there will be 3 CEO's for the merger, one for Interfaith, one for SET and one to oversee the merger. Eventually, there will only be one CEO. Their mission will be rolled out with the merger being announced at the November meeting. At this time, it's not known if there will be a name change, new missions, etc. Their annual Pull up a Chair event will be on November 2nd with an attendance fee of \$40.

Added Note: Names of individuals who volunteered this year for specific areas in Human Concerns through the new Service Directory were passed out to the chairs of the sub-committees. It's important to follow through and contact these individuals who have been called to serve. If they are a returning member, a phone call to thank them would also be appropriate. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Krolikowski, Acting Secretary

Our next meeting is November 15th. Please get your agenda items and reports to Cindy prior to that. Thank you.

CRITERIA FOR "OTHER PARISH DONATIONS" ACCOUNT #4692.40

First and foremost, the Human Concerns Committee reflects upon the impelling source for all that the Committee does - - Matthew 25: 34-41.

"Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, '**Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.**'"

Beyond this, the Human Concerns Committee has established seven criteria we use as a guideline to select our organizations or causes for contributions from the Other Parish Donations Account. The organization/cause must fall within one of the following areas:

1. service to the unborn or pro-life
2. service to the elderly
3. service to youth ministries
4. service to families
5. service to society in general (social justice issues)
6. service to the needs of our students
7. crisis money (emergencies)

Once an organization/cause falls into one of the above categories, it must then meet a new set of criteria:

- A. is it financially stable?
- B. does it have Christian values?
- C. does it operate within the law?
- D. does it need our money?

Once all that is met, an organization will receive a portion of the money allotted to Other Parish Donations.

If a parish member is interested in submitting a worthy organization to be considered in next years budget just send your request in writing to the Human Concerns Committee at the Rectory. Please send as much information about the organization as possible and we will look into it. Our budget is set for the year unless there is an emergency situation. If an emergency situation should arise, please contact the committee President (Steve Obscherning 773-9146) and the Committee will attempt to handle it or pass it on to the St. Vincent de Paul Committee if appropriate.

Works of Mercy

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are actions we can perform that extend God's compassion and mercy to those in need.

Corporal Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy are these kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs.

feed the hungry
give drink to the thirsty
clothe the naked
shelter the homeless
visit the sick
visit the imprisoned
bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion, as listed below, by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs.

counsel the doubtful
instruct the ignorant
admonish sinners
comfort the afflicted
forgive offenses
bear wrongs patiently
pray for the living and the dead