

Human Concerns Minutes for January 17, 2018

Members present: Linda Bardele, Mary Benson, Cindy Chovanec, Jim Deguzman, Craig Griffie, Pat Krolikowski, Steve Obscherning, Anna Retzke, Cathy Schaefer, Z. Schaefer, Mary Sermersheim, Sue Schmitt, Jan Zettel

- Minutes from the November meeting were approved.
- Sue Schmitt reported that the Advent Giving Tree Project was a huge success. All three charities were extremely grateful for the generous donations.
- Sue also spoke about the upcoming Rice Bowl Campaign for Catholic Relief Services that begins in Lent. We discussed the possibility of promoting this important campaign as the donations that came in last year were significantly less than previous years. It might help to educate the parish about the campaign and the great work that CRS does.
- Z Schaefer reported on Care Ministries which serves both the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. There are several subcommittees under Care Ministries. Z mentioned that if anyone has any new ideas for service, these ideas are welcome.
- To date, 266 prayer shawls have been distributed. In the first two weeks of January, three have already been given. Z led a discussion about the possibility of having a time when the prayer shawls could be blessed. In the past, they were displayed at Mass and blessed.
- Stewardship: Z led a discussion on how we can be better stewards. There are two pamphlets that would be beneficial to parishioners: Embracing Generous Life, and Joyful Spirituality of Stewardship. A group discussion could follow after reading this literature.
- Upcoming retreat at the Sienna Center on February 3 from 9-12. It is an uplifting day of reflection for people who do nice things for others.
- Cindy reported for Judy Maret on the upcoming dates for the Lenten Food Drive. After consulting with Father Phillip and Maggie, the dates will be the weekends of March 3rd and 4th, 10th and 11th, and 17th and 18th.
- Linda Bardele went over the following parish giving for January.

- 1) \$1,000 for St. Vincent de Paul (Main Organization)
- 2) \$1,000 for School Sisters of St. Francis
- 3) \$1,000 for Pro-Life Wisconsin
- 4) \$500 for Daystar, Inc.
- 5) \$325 for Dominican Center for Women, Inc.
- 6) \$500 for Greater Milwaukee Free Clinic
- 7) \$325 for Milwaukee Rescue Mission
- 8) \$300 for Franciscan Peacemakers – Clare Community
- 9) \$400 for Literacy Services of Wisconsin
- 10) \$500 for The Guest House

There is \$1400 left for parish giving of which \$1000 is already accounted for in our yearly budget. We should decide for the future if we should make donations to one or two new groups. Perhaps we should consider having some committee members look over the use of money in the budget. (Should we simplify and give more to less charities, give more to SVDP, Social Justice, etc.?) Craig Griffie suggested that we invite Father Phillip to a future meeting to discuss this.

- The Right to Life dinner is to be held on April 13th at 5:30 p.m. at the Wisconsin Center. Linda Bardele will attend. If you are also interested in attending, please contact Steve or Linda.
- Anna Retzke gave an update on Tosa Interfaith. She suggested that we advertise to the parish to explain the merger with SET ministries and the work that Tosa interfaith does. Over 600 people have been served in the Tosa area. Anna reported that SET Ministries is very organized. They are looking into the possibility of expanding services to families whose grandparents are caring for their grandchildren. Tosa Interfaith is looking for volunteers and also searching for a Financial Chairperson.
- Anna also brought up the issue of the Parish Website. Several of our committee chairs are incorrect and do not align with our Parish Ministry booklet. Cindy will send a current roster to Laura Shears. We also discussed the fact that the parish website is difficult to navigate. Perhaps a group could meet with Laura to discuss some ideas.
- Habitat for Humanity: No times have been assigned for volunteers. Kate and Gerry Neugent will be stepping down as chairpersons for Habitat in June. Please contact Steve, Kate, or Gerry if you are interested in taking on this ministry or if you know of someone who might be interested.
- We thanked Jan Zettel for her past work on making and sending Senior Birthday cards. Jan is moving and will be leaving our committee in March. Our thanks to Cathy Schaefer for taking over this ministry.
- Our meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Chovanec