

MINUTES FOR HUMAN CONCERNS MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2017

Members and visitors present: Steve Obscherning, Jim de Guzman, Jan Zettel, Jim Pittelkow, Greg Baker, Mary Sermersheim, Linda Bardele, Ken Kloser, Cathy Schaefer, Tom Heller, Bill Callahan, Judy Maret, Sue Schmitt, Z Schaefer, Mary Benson, Craig Griffie and Terry Brennan.

We started with a prayer request for Pat Josten, a former member, for a successful surgery and quick recovery.

The October minutes were approved.

We discussed the reflection question, "What resources has God given Christ King for building the kingdom?" Some of the responses included many good and talented parishioners who are willing to share their gifts, strong leadership, corporal works of mercy, faith filled etc. We also have an excellent school, educating the children for the future.

Judy Maret shared that the food drive is going well with help from students and adults alike taking it to the food pantry. Students, as part of earning service hours, did a special project at the food pantry. The old food pyramid has been changed to My Plate. The food was organized on the shelves, and they were color coordinated as to the various categories pertaining to the My Plate designations for healthy eating. The students labeled the shelves accordingly.

Mr. Brown organized service projects for the middle school students which included raking leaves for older members of the parish still living in their homes. Ken Kloser is concentrating on social justice issues with the school kids with the intention of inciting passion. He is always looking for new ideas through our committee.

Linda Bardele reported that the December parish giving will be \$500 to the House of Peace, \$250 to Mac Canon Brown Homeless Sanctuary, and \$1,000 to St. Vincent de Paul Christ King Chapter. In January, \$1,000 will go to the main office of St. Vincent de Paul and \$1,000 to the School Sisters of St. Francis.

There was a request for parish giving funds regarding Quad Graphics employees living in Mexico who have become displaced due to the hurricane. After some discussion, we decided not to give at this time since we had donated for hurricane relief through Catholic Relief Services and wanted to address some other needs.

Mary Sermersheim gave a presentation on the St. Ann International Center with the hope of getting parish giving funds to them. The goal of the center is to provide needs for the poorest of the poor. It's an intergenerational day care center for children and adults alike with various special needs. Relationships are built between the children and adults, giving each emotional support and better preparing the children for school. There is a continuing need for volunteers. Mary highlighted Sister Edna who makes and sells jewelry at the 2801 East Morgan location from the hours of 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday with the profits going to the center. The committee agreed to a donation of \$500 from our emergency funds for St. Ann's.

Steve welcomed new members, namely, Terry Brennan and Cathy Schaefer and visitor, Bill Callahan. He reported that Marty Merkt resigned.

In an email from Anna Retzke, the new name of the combined organizations of SET Ministries and Interfaith is Unison. She will be meeting soon with Amy Dedow, the direction of Greater Tosa Interfaith. Linda will vet the newly formed organization for future giving.

Sue Schmitt reported on our upcoming Advent Giving Tree project. The weekends for the drive are November 25/26, December 2/3, December 9/10 and December 16/17. The three charities this year are Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul Society and Kids Matter. Full details as to their needs will be listed in the bulletin. "Ornaments" with these needs will be on Christmas trees located in the Parish Center gathering space and in the Swan Blvd. entrance. There will also be a pulpit announcement. Please contact Sue if you are able to lend a hand with this project.

Z Schaefer shared some thank-you notes from Prayer shawl recipients and the importance of this ministry that brings comfort to those who are seriously ill, have suffered a serious injury or any type of loss. We check for names on the "Pray for the Sick" list to contact, however, many are by word of mouth. A recipient does not have to be a parish member. A suggestion was made that a picture of the Prayer Shawl Ministry participants be placed in the bulletin along with an article informing parishioners of this ministry. Z also talked about the justice program she and a couple other parishioners attended at the Sienna Center recently. Terry Brennan, one of the attendees, noted how informative and enlightening the program was, with the speaker citing the Gospels, readings from specific passages and what it could bring to social justice. The speaker is from Green Bay and Z suggested that we could bring him here to give us information on how to get started but specifically to pray for Catholic social justice. However, we need someone from the committee to take the lead in this area. On bereavement, she noted that it was gratifying for both St. Bernard's and Christ King to work together for a beautiful All Soul's Day remembrance Mass that was held at St. Bernard's.

Jan Zettel announced that she's resigning from the Birthday Cards for the Elderly program due her moving a distance away from the parish. Cards are sent to parishioners who are over 75 years old, and we need to find someone to take her place.

Tom Heller talked about our budget saying there was nothing new at this time. However, he's tracking how the money is being spent for next year's budget requests. We need to tap into Match Day next spring whereby our funds given to an agency are matched, doubling our donation. He also spoke to how our checks are spread out and why they can't be done less often like every three months. Also, if the need is now, why not give now.

Steve said we should save our emergency funds and indicated that 2% of the parish budget for other parish donations ("parish giving") should be higher. We need to be good stewards with our giving and focus on areas that speak to our hearts. We also need to do a better job of promoting what our committee does, especially in the area of other parish donations and give to charities that have been vetted. Our criteria for giving also needs to be looked at and perhaps revised somewhat. Please review the criteria that was sent via email and bring your suggestions to our next meeting. Another thought was to have boxes at Mass such as the Share Sunday Masses for collections to various charities – a charity of the month so to speak. Regarding Habitat for Humanity, due to an increased funding request from the main organization, we are unable to sponsor our own house this year with what we give, which we should be able to do.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Krolkowski, Acting Secretary

P.S. Have a blessed holiday season. Our next meeting is January 17, 2018.