

SAINT MARTIN OF TOURS
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE – MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 14, 2014

In Attendance: Dennis Andolsek, Mary Barnes, Charlie Farnsworth, Flora Funk, Sister Lavern Olberding, Anne Pacheco, Father Jim Poulsen, Nancy Ryan, Christina Santos, Bridget Slatten.

Not in Attendance: Mary Jo Crouch, Jerry Crouch, Peggy Dryer, Luisa Dunn, Mark Pacheco, Denise Pippin

Prayer: *God Who Dwells with Us, awaken in me all the ways you are home to me. Be with me as I strive to “be home” for the people in my life and for people I may not know, but who are homeless.*

Minutes of the October 26 meeting were e-mailed to all members that week. Copies were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections.

Accomplishments: (update)

- A total of fifty Santa letters, for children at TJ school sponsored by Responsibility, were fulfilled by Academy (8th grade & preschool), Youth Group & Mom’sGroup.
- Thermal clothing was delivered to Casa de los Probes on Nov. 22. (Jerry, Mary-Jo, Luisa, Jim, Dory Miller) Check parish website for pictures.
- Denise coordinated a collection of socks and throw blankets for the homeless, on behalf of Catholic Worker.

Loose Change Collections : (Accounting sheet was distributed.)

- A total of \$1,021.18 was donated in the December collection. Half will be given to Hogar infantil la Gloria orphanage and the other half will be given to “Advancing Students Forward (ASF) their scholarship fund.
- It was decided to designate Catholic Charities Rachel Home (homeless women) for the January collection. It is too late to put it in the parish bulletin but an announcement will be made from the pulpit the weekend of Jan. 4th and the boxes will have the designation printed on them.

Lenten Program: (discussion, suggestions, input from Pastoral Council members, etc.)

Decisions:

- Have a parish dinner and launch of Rice Bowl and speaker series on Friday, February 20. Will try to involve other parish groups in assisting with this fish taco dinner. Ideas discussed: show video explaining CRS Rice Bowl, advertise the countries designated for Rice Bowl this year and possibly have samples of dishes, invite some local priests who can witness to the work of CRS in their respective countries, etc.
- Have guest speakers, representing the ministries we choose, on the four following Fridays: (February 27, March 6, 13, & 20) Fish taco dinners will be available prior to each presentation.
- Possibly have samples of ethnic dishes and some information concerning the Rice Bowl country designated each week, prior to the presentation
- On Friday, March 27 have a simple soup and salad dinner followed by a 30 minute Taize Prayer Service. Sister La Vern will coordinate.

Choices for Ministries / Speakers;

Anne distributed a list of all the ministries we have invited in previous years. It was reviewed and discussed while considering who should be invited this Lent. Some suggestions were made which will be e-mailed to each SJM member with the request to indicate preferences. (from what is listed and any additional)

Rice Bowl Prayer, Blessing & Distribution (school and parish)
• **Ash Wednesday Masses (2/18/2015)**

SJM Franciscan Peach Connection (update)

“Sister to Sister’s” Holiday shopping event for women recovering from addiction was held on December 6 at OLPH. Sr. LaVern and Mary Barnes reported that about 45 women participated and they were so pleased to have gifts for themselves and their children. Chris Davis and others in our parish assisted with the sorting, set-up and the event itself. Many also contributed items.

Interfaith Shelter Network:

Various churches host a shelter, for two weeks each, during cold weather for homeless families who are recommended by respective case workers. Vista La Mesa Christian Church hosts each year and the dates this year are January 3-17. We, and other churches that do not host, are asked to help out with meals and overnight supervision. The specific dates / needs will be e-mailed with a request to volunteer, if possible. FYI: Catholic Churches in East County who host are Our Lady of Grace, Santa Sophia, Holy Trinity. In La Mesa, United Methodist Church also hosts.

The meeting concluded at 11:50am.

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 11, 2015 @10:15am

(Minutes submitted by Nancy Ryan – 12/13/14)

Additional Items:

Rice Bowl Designations for Lent 2015

1. Democratic Republic of Congo
2. Nicaragua
3. Lebanon
4. Niger
5. Tanzania
6. Local Designation

Book Recommendations: by Father Michael White and Tom Corcoran (previous meeting)

Rebuilt: The Story of A Catholic Parish (Nativity in the Baltimore MD Archdiocese)

“Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, Making Church Matter”

Tools for Rebuilding: 75 Practical Ways To Make Your Parish Better

Principles/tactics include:

- Get the Right People on the Bus
- Christmas Is Over, So Throw Out the Dead Poinsettias
- Stop Advertising (Other People’s Stuff) in Your Bulletin
- Don’t Let the Insiders Take All the Good Seats
- Just Because It’s Slow Doesn’t Mean It’s Holy
- When It Comes to First Communion, Just Surrender
- Funerals Are Scud Missles • Preach the Announcements
- Start Getting Rid of Fundraisers • Everything Takes Longer (Than You Think)
- Stop Trying to Make People Go to Church and Make Church Matter