

## **NOVEMBER 2023 CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION REPORT**

**Present:** Ray Busuttill, Richard Fullmerhouser, Sandy Rogala, Toni Sheffield, Terri Thor

**Absent:** Denise Brady, Helen Ickes

### **GOSPEL OF LIFE**

AAA Pregnancy Resource Center Baby Bottle Campaign underway. 350 bottles were taken, so far 252 returned.

RTL/Lifespan Christmas Card Sale will be in the Parish Hall November 11/12 and 18/19 after each Mass

The group continues to write out cards of congratulations to the newly baptized. They enclose a hand made Rosary and a pamphlet "How to Pray the Rosary for Children." The rosaries (blue and pink) are hand made and donated by a parishioner; pamphlets are ordered from Our Sunday Visitor and the bill given to the Parish Office.

Sandy noted an error in the September meeting minutes. Minutes reflected that Dr Ben Carson was speaking at a RTL dinner at Burton Manor; it was actually a AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center dinner/event at Burton Manor and was very sold out.

### **FUNERAL LUNCH**

Helen not at the meeting but since Terri volunteers at many of the luncheons she reports that things are going along quite well. Having a caterer who prepares everything in our parish kitchen has worked out very well.

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

-Service projects for high school teens organized by Patti Kelly have been well attended.

-The number of people attending Saturday Nights Snacks has been increasing over the last few months.

-CSA donations are still coming in and we expect to meet our goal. If it is not met through these donations however, the shortfall will need to be taken from our parish savings.

-Family of Parishes will host both Chuck Gaidica in November and reconciliation services for Advent in December.

-Mass for the December 23-24 weekend will be on December 23 at 5:00 only.

-Christmas Mass schedule will be:

Christmas Eve: 4:00, 6:30, Midnight

Christmas Day: 8:30, 11:00

### **OUTREACH**

This year the holiday outreach will revolve around Christmas only. The Giving Tree will be ready beginning the weekend of November 18/19. The charities we will be helping with gift items and gift cards are Loaves and Fishes of Southwest Detroit, Franciscan Ministries in Detroit, and Vista Maria in Dearborn Heights.

Also, because we will not be having an Outreach food collection for anyone other than Loaves & Fishes (our regular collection for them), there will be tags for Kroger and Meijer gift cards for the Christian Service Office to distribute to individuals in need of food. All Giving Tree gifts and gift cards need to be returned by Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Sort and Pack will be on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, and delivery on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

There is a Texas Hold 'Em tournament going on starting November 9. The Knights continue to volunteer at St Christine's both the food pantry and the soup kitchen. They continue to support the parish and the school buying needed items. Unable to provide Santa Clause for the RE Family event but will help in other ways.

## **ST VINCENT DE PAUL**

Richard Fullmerhouser will attend meetings beginning today. This is the first time since Toni has worked in CS that there is a rep from St Vincent DePaul attending meetings and for that the entire Commission is thankful. Richard shared a bit about how St Vincent DePaul works, their affiliation with an organization called Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Journey to Housing and the St Vincent DePaul store (closest one at the moment is in Bloomfield Hills). We look forward to having Richard join us at future meetings.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was much discussion about two different subjects:

- 1) Volunteers to work at the Warming Center at Lighthouse Mission in Westland one night per week for the months of January-February-March. We hope for a "team" to go to the Mission on the same night each week from 6P-10P. Pre-COVID there was a team from St Edith who volunteered every Tuesday for those three months. Volunteers would help serve a meal, visit with those spending the night, and anything else needed. We would love for a new team of people to start this coming January. If interested please call Tim Cokley at 734-326-3885. Toni has already asked that this information be put on our Website and Social Media.
- 2) The other thing that was discussed at length is where people can drop off gift cards for the Giving Tree. This has been an issue every year with no good solution until this meeting when Richard offered to let Toni have a key to the St Vincent DePaul "poor box" that is in the Gathering Area. People could drop the cards in the box and she will be able to remove them. Toni will let Deacon Don know so that members of the Welcoming Committee can know where to direct people who want to turn in gift cards. Ray then suggested that a locked mailbox (that can be mounted on the wall) be put outside the Christian Service Office for when people want to drop donations of money, gift cards, etc. to Toni or Patti when the office is closed. Everyone decided this is a good idea and Ray will look into purchasing one.

Because we discussed so many things at length the meeting ran long and finished at 2:25.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 1:00 in the Christian Service Office.