

## **Our Lady of Fatima Social Ministry Projects Meeting Notes**

**Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at 6 PM**

Gathering Space – St. Catherine's

Those present were: Father Tom Jennings, Katie Baustian, Sue Linebeck, Mary Schutz, Connie Wieneke, Sue Buffington, Tillie Clark, Mary Lou Mulligan. Becky Ranchau emailed that she would be out of town for a funeral and Bill Deutsch has been ill.

Father Tom Jennings opened the meeting with a Hail Mary. We all signed a card to send to Bill Deutsch.

Katie Baustian spoke about the meal that we serve at the Banquet in Sioux Falls each year. The staff does not want a lot of younger students helping anymore so Faith Formation will not be able to use as many students as in prior years. In the discussion that followed it was decided that if St. Catherine's is going to keep this ministry, our group would like to take charge of it. Sue Linebeck will coordinate and make arrangements with the staff this year. The staff purchases the food and we supply 6 – 8 people about 2 PM to prepare the meal. Then another group of 35 people would get there at 5 PM to serve the meal. Only 8<sup>th</sup> graders and older students would be invited. Father would have a second collection at a Sunday Mass to donate for the food. We would have sign up sheets in the Gathering Space and notices in the Sunday bulletins prior to the date of the meal.

We did not discuss our new booklet, Food Security & Economic Justice; we will take up the first ten pages at our February meeting.

The USCCB has started a new initiative called First Fridays for Food Security. The idea is that families would try to spend less on meals on First Friday. They suggest using the amount of money Food Stamp users would receive to plan meals that day. It would be a learning experience for those of us who have so much.

Mary Lou receives emails from Carrie Soto, the organizer of Hunger Free Rock County. She copies them and gives them to Connie Wieneke and Sue Linebeck, who are our representatives to that group. This week Carrie wrote to say that they have had very poor attendance and few meetings. She wants everyone to evaluate where we stand on the hunger issue. "If the majority decides that they cannot commit to active participation and no one is willing to take the reins, I will consider the HFRC group dissolved." It was decided that we would let her know that our group is still supporting it. Connie suggested quarterly meetings might help. Sue thought that day time eliminates too many working people from helping. Maybe some evening meetings would help. Mary Lou will email Carrie with those suggestions and call Sharon Oksness, who had wanted to help with the effort, to let her know about the current problem.

Sue Buffington gave a report on Sanctity of Life Sunday, which is January 21/22. We will have the annual Baby Bottle change collection that weekend and we will gather at the chapel for a 2 PM rosary on Sunday, January 22. Notices will be placed in the bulletins for both events. Sue will contact Katie to see if any of the teens would want to help as they have in past years.

In February Sue will once again conduct the daffodil sale for cancer research. The final day to submit orders will be the 15<sup>th</sup>. Delivery will be March 12. The cost is \$10 for a

bunch, \$15 for a bunch with a vase and there are more choices. Once again it will be publicized in the bulletin.

This month the LCCW Bingo at the Vets Home is January 21<sup>st</sup> at 215 PM. All are welcome, Connie will bring the money and Mary Lou and Sue Linebeck will assist her.

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is not planning any activities right now. They advertise for assistance in the paper when it is needed.

Mary Lou reported on the Day on the Hill which will be Tuesday, March 20, 2012 from 8:30 AM until 3:30 PM at the Capitol in St. Paul. The political caucuses are on Feb. 7, 2012 at 7 PM. The DFL will meet in the Elementary School Commons and the Republicans will meet in the old gym at the school.

Habitat for Humanity hopes to have a groundbreaking at Marie Wiegel's donated lot in the spring.

We passed the sheets for volunteers to sell Fair Trade items over the next few weeks.

Mary Lou continues to get updates from the NETWORK lobbying group which is a group of nuns that organized to lobby Congress on issues that impact the common good. She would be willing to print copies for anyone who is interested but will not forward them to all on the email list for this group anymore. Her number is 449-2653, call her and she will see that you get them.

Father said that January 8 is the celebration of Epiphany and is designated as Immigration Sunday. We will have special prayers that day for immigrants around the world. He also stated that January 18– 25 is celebrated the Church Unity Octave and we will pray for people of all faiths.

Mary Schutz gave a report from the Welcoming Committee. She and Pat Scheidt have met with several families who are new to our area and have given out packets of information about our parish. They were unable to meet one family and Father suggested that he could take that packet.

***Our next meeting will be Feb. 1 at 6 PM in the Gathering space at St. Catherine's.***

Mary Lou read a prayer to close the meeting.

Some items to remember for next month's meeting agenda: see if Katie Jauert can speak about her work at the UN for the Vatican delegation, Daffodil sale, HFRC and the Banquet in Sioux Falls.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Lou Mulligan, Coordinator