

Notes from the Our Lady of Fatima Social Ministry Committee Meeting
which took place on February 2, 2011 in the Gathering Space at St. Catherine's

Those in attendance were: Father Tom Jennings, Lisa Kremer from Catholic Charities, Sue Buffington, Sue Linebeck, Connie Wieneke, Tillie Clark, Virginia Gerken, Becky Ranschau and Mary Lou Mulligan.

The meeting was opened with a Scripture and prayer led by Father Tom.

Lisa Kremer led a discussion of the assigned part of the booklet from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops titled COMMUNITIES OF SALT AND LIGHT: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish. For our next meeting we will discuss pages 6-10 and prepare the first two groups of questions at the back of the book.

Lisa talked again about the JRLC Day on the Hill which will take place on Feb. 17. They are going to have a bus if we have enough people. Mary Lou Mulligan and Sue Linebeck would like to attend.

Mary Lou passed around quite a few handouts concerning advocacy for the common good. The legislative agendas for several groups were discussed. Some of the groups who supplied their agendas were: Minnesota Catholic Conference, the Interfaith Children's Advocacy Network, the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, and Sojourners magazine. Most of these groups have action alerts which supply information on current items that need to be brought to the attention of the legislators in our state and nationally.

We had several hunger items about which to speak. The first was the Hunger Free Rock County Forum which was attended by Father, Bud and Tillie Clark, Sue Linebeck and Mary Lou Mulligan. We learned a lot about the hunger problems in our state and learned that our county is one of the leaders in the statewide offensive to rid the state of the hunger problem within 10 years.

Virginia Gerken said that our parish just finished our month of Meals on Wheels. Tillie said that she has access to free meal tickets for Meals on Wheels so if anyone knows of a person in need she would love to give them away.

Once again when we talked about the Rock County Emergency Food Shelf. The subject of increasing the hours came up. Last week the Food Shelf had a record number of families. We supply the Food Shelf this month. We will have the gifts of food for the Food Shelf brought to the altar at each weekend Mass this month.

Father said that the Faith Formation classes will be volunteering at the Bread of Life Ministry at St. Mary's in Worthington on Feb. 20 and April 17. All interested in donating funds to keep this ministry up and running can make checks out to the Manna Food Pantry and designate that it is for the Bread for Life Ministry. The last two weeks they served at least 70 people so it is definitely a useful service. On May 10 our parish will volunteer at the Banquet in Sioux Falls. We will need workers and monetary donations.

Sue Buffington reported that the Baby Bottle collections totaled \$125 which will be donated to the Helping Hands Pregnancy Center in Worthington. She is also taking orders in the Gathering Space on the weekends for Daffodils for Cancer Research to be delivered in March.

Mary Lou reported that the new Habitat for Humanity house to be built on Marie Wiegel's lot will have a groundbreaking service on May 7. There is not a homeowner yet and we need to approach people who need homes and who would like to partner with Habitat to own their own home.

March 8 is Fat Tuesday and our parish Lenten Festival will begin with a soup supper to be followed by entertainment from Doug Brummel who will present a celebration of faith and family.

We passed sign up sheets for people who will volunteer to sell Fair Trade coffee. Lisa said they are putting an awareness trip together to travel to Guatemala next year. She gave us a packet of information for the use of any folks who might be interested in such a trip. Anyone interested can contact the office.

Mary Lou read two inspiring emails from Alex Miller in which he described a trip that he and his daughter took to Madagascar where he works with the UN on mobile phone services. I will post them on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space. We will try to fill a space on the bulletin board that Father suggested would be a great spot for educational displays.

Our next meeting will be March 2, 2011 at 600 PM. Lisa led us in reading the prayer of St. Simeon at the Purification of Jesus Christ, which was the feast day for the day.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Lou Mulligan, Coordinator