

Minutes from Our Lady of Fatima Social Ministry meeting  
which took place on May 5, 2010 in the Gathering Space at St. Catherine's

Those in attendance were: Father Tom Jennings, Tillie Clark, Virginia Gerken, Sue Buffington, Bernardine Merrill, Bill Deutsch, Becky Ranchau, Sue Linebeck, Dee Buss, Lisa Kremer and Mary Lou Mulligan.

Father Tom opened the meeting with prayer.

Bill Deutsch gave a very moving account of the wonderful trip he went on with the Southwest Minnesota Honor flight on April 30 and May 1. He was very impressed with all of the sights they saw but most of all with the great respect and honor that they received from everyone along the way. He was also sorry that so many of the survivors of WWII have passed on and could not be a part of the trip. He said that their every need was met, they did not have to do anything for themselves.

Father and Mary Lou introduced Lisa Kremer, who will be the new Parish Social Ministry Coordinator for Catholic Charities at the Worthington office. She lives with her husband on a farm near Iona. She has three children from 17 to 28. She has been on mission trips and is interested in social justice issues. She is a Secular Franciscan which means she is striving to live the Gospel Life in the rule of St. Francis. She would like to be a liaison for each of the parishes in our deanery.

We worked on our Fair Trade schedule for May and June. After those months we can all check the calendar which will be kept in the box with the Fair Trade products. We can add our names whenever we have a weekend free in July and August.

Sue Buffington reported on our Bells of St. Catherine team for Relay for Life. Neva Clausen is working on the baking silent auction once more. Sue and her helpers will be in the church each weekend until the event on June 18. They will take memberships. They will be selling bells and luminaries. They will again sell rice krispie bars at the event. All are invited to help in any way they can.

Mary Lou handed out a short list of government leaders phone numbers and addresses for use when lobbying for items in the interest of the common good. She would like to put an invitation in the newsletter to encourage more parishioners to attend our meetings. We spoke about ideas for such an invitation. Habitat for Humanity is having a pancake breakfast fund raiser at the Grace Lutheran church on May 22 from 830 AM until 10 AM. They will also have a rib cook off on July 16 at the Meals, Music and Meander event at the City Park that evening. Bread for the World Offering of Letters will be the weekend of September 11/12.

Dee Buss is going to get a meal for Jill Arp's family as part of the Elizabeth Ministry. They have a new baby with health problems. Father is concerned that they may need more help. Another family has a new baby with health problems, too, and we hope that the Elizabeth Ministry can be of assistance to them also.

Father stated that the new monthly Mass at Centennial is going well. He would like to have some refreshments served there. Tillie Clark delivers Communion there every week and she said she would bring some cookies and make a pot of coffee to bring along to the apartment building.

Our guest speaker, Amber Top, was introduced by Father and she gave us a Power Point presentation on her trip to Haiti from which she returned on March 17<sup>th</sup> this spring. She was there after the earthquake

so she did see destruction but also rebuilding. The Haitian people are a very faith filled people and happy, especially the children. She has made other trips there with a group called Mission Hope. They usually do 2 trips a year. They have 4 aims when they go there: Evangelize, Bible School, construction and nursing. She told us that anyone of any age can join these groups to go to Haiti. She felt that the children seemed healthier this time because their nutrition had improved since more food has been shipped into the country after the catastrophe. One of their main focuses while there is to listen to the story of each person. She related some of these stories for us and some are very emotional. She said that unsanitary water is always a problem but she thought that there are more filters in use. Still they have to use the river for everything and that is not a good situation. Somehow when they attend church services though they are dressed in good clean clothes because that is the big event of the week. The service can last for about 3 hours and is very joyous in spite of the circumstances in which the people find themselves. They have a strong trust in God and his faithfulness.

Amber is studying to be nurse in the mental health field and feels that she can do good work here as well as Haiti. She was accompanied by her mother, Shirley Top.

Mary Lou led the group in prayer to end the meeting.  
The next meeting will be September 1, 2010 at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Lou Mulligan, Coordinator