

Notes from Our Lady of Fatima Social Ministry Project
which took place on May 11, 2011 in the Gathering Space at St. Catherine's.

Those present were: Father Tom, Tillie Clark, Connie Wieneke, Sue Linebeck, Virginia Gerken and Mary Lou Mulligan.

Mary Lou opened the meeting with a quote from Peter Maurin, a co founder with Dorothy Day of the Catholic Worker newspaper: "The world would be better off if people tried to become better. And people would become better if they stopped trying to become better off." This was followed by a prayer from a publication from Catholic Relief Services called Prayer without Borders, Celebrating Global Wisdom. Father asked us to pray for any special intentions that we wanted to bring to the Lord.

We discussed the last part of COMMUNITIES OF SALT AND LIGHT. This little book has been a good conversation starter. One of the suggestions resulting from these conversations was that we should try to get at least one person from all groups working within our parish to attend the future meetings. By that we mean the Knights of Columbus, Faith Formation (both adults and teens), the parish council and any others that have an interest in our work as a parish.

Sue and Connie presented a report on the meeting of the Hunger Free Rock County committee which they attended on May 3. They will meet in the library on the first Tuesday of each month. The main objective of this group is to reduce the number of missed meals that studies have shown as a problem in our county. They discussed a plan to receive crock pots from the Salvation Army for use at the Emergency Food Shelf. Learning how to use these would help people to spend fewer dollars to have better meals. They also want to increase funds for SNAP and for food stamps. Seniors need to be made aware of the services available for them and convinced to do the necessary paperwork. Also, they discussed perhaps rewarding parents who fill out the paperwork for reduced and free meals at school. The backpack program will again be up and running this summer. They have signed up about 80 students and expect half will show up. Our parish will furnish an activity location as we did last year.

Judy Walgrave reported to Mary Lou that their group called St Catherine's Bells is ready for the Relay for Life which will be in June. They will have a walking tacos event on May 15 in the Gathering Space after Mass. Mary Lou will find out if shirts are available or not. There is a sign up sheet for any who want to assist the Walgraves.

Mary Lou reported that Lisa Kremer sent a thank you note following our farewell for her last month. She also sent an email to say that the Bread of Life feeding ministry in Worthington will close for a couple of months this summer to reopen in the fall. The last day for serving will be May 22.

Catholics Confront Global Poverty sends action alerts to remind folks of upcoming legislation that needs our attention. They explain the issue and ask that we contact our Congressman and Senators. Also all are invited to sign up for action alerts on their own email addresses. The same thing is true for the Network group which also sends out these alerts for many topics. These are on national topics. In our state there are alerts regarding statewide issues from the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC). Whenever Mary Lou receives an alert she will send them out to all who have given her their email addresses. People can follow the directions from there. If there are questions call Mary Lou at 449-2653. Father will have copies available for those who do not have email.

At this point we could see that a storm was fast approaching so Father gave a quick report on a few things. For May 15, the feast of St. Isadore, the patron of farmers, he will bless farmers and will say a litany of St. Isadore. The weekend of June 11/12 he has invited a missionary from the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. The Rock County Yellow Ribbon group will have a parade in Luverne on Memorial day at 130 PM which will be followed by a service at the Vets Home. So we will schedule our cemetery Mass for 4 PM and see if that works. We have usually had it at 1 PM. He has changed the Eastertime Anointing Mass to May 19 and it will be followed by fellowship. Our serving at The Banquet in Sxfs was short of volunteers. Father thinks that next year our group should take

charge of the event.

Father Tom suggested that our name should be Our Lady of Fatima Social Ministry Project. He thought committee did not describe what we do as well as Project.

We decided to have a potluck picnic on June 15 at 630 PM to be followed by a meeting.

We left quickly to beat the storm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Lou Mulligan, Coordinator.