

Notes from the Our Lady of Fatima Social Ministry Meeting
which took place on October 6, 2010 in the Gathering Space at St. Catherine's.

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

Mary Lou opened the meeting with a reading about the life of Dorothy Day then we all said the Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Lisa Kremer, from Catholic Charities, gave a short talk about St. Francis. There are still a few tickets for the Sunday night, October 11, event with Immaculee Ilibagiza in Worthington. Lisa has completed arrangements for our Adult Faith Formation program on Immigration on Wednesday night, October 13. She has invited the other parishes in the deanery. Bill, Becky and Mary Lou will bring bars for fellowship after the event which will be held in the Gathering Space. Mary Lou will join Lisa for a trip to Paynesville for a Parish Social Ministry Gathering on Friday and Saturday, October 8/9.

October is Fair Trade month and Lisa gave a short talk about that. She had a children's book on the subject. She also had a Catholic Relief Services catalog. We will order some of those as well as some of the Heifer catalogs. These will be placed on a table for the Christmas season to supply alternative Christmas ideas.

We will also have a visit from 10,000 Villages on the weekend of November 28th as well as the Bethlehem wood carvers will be here on the weekend of December 5.

Father Tom reported on an article which he copied and handed out to us. It concerned the Catholic Charities 100th year anniversary. First he read a report from that group on the increase in poverty in the last year. After that we discussed the upcoming Rummage Sale and decided to keep the price for a bag of rummage at \$2 because the poverty numbers are so high and reconsider a raise next year. Then he read a short history of Catholic Charities. When it was founded it was to promote solidarity among diocesan charitable ministries and "to be the attorney for the poor". It is the largest social service in the country, second only to the federal government.

Mary Lou handed out lists of candidates for the election on November 2. The bishops advised us in FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP to learn everything we can about candidates for all offices and then vote our conscience.

We discussed our preparations for the Bread for the World Offering of Letters which will be held on the weekend of October 16/17. The idea is to have people write to their Congressmen and Senators to continue the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit for low income workers and their families. We will have writing supplies available for people to use in the Gathering Space or take home and return the next weekend. Then they will be taken to the altar the next week before we send them all together to the legislators.

Mary Lou reported that the SC collection for Cropwalk amounted to \$527.27 and that was the most collected for that endeavor from our parish. The Board for the Lord collection totaled \$72. The JRLC is organizing another Day on the Hill for Feb. 11, 2011. The volunteer sheet for Fair Trade Sales was passed. Mary Lou will order chocolate from CRS because our other supplier is not going to carry that item anymore.

Father Tom closed our meeting with the prayer in honor of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Then we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Catholic Charities. Father treated us with pie and ice cream.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Lou Mulligan, Coordinator