

St. Therese Parish  
Social Outreach Fellowship Committee Meeting Minutes

The committee met on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at St. Therese Church at 7:00 PM.

*Members present:* Father Hal Barber, Shirley Donnelly, Chuck Edwards, Haley Hunhoff, Louise Johnson, Jean Rasmussen, Sue Williams.

*Members absent:* Beverly Christopherson, Jim Lacasse, Louise Oven

Father Barber opened with prayer.

The group read the Mission Statement and the Vision Statement.

**Reports were given from each of the Social Outreach ministries.**

1. Shirley Donnelly reported on the *Elizabeth Ministry*.

No Baptismal ornaments were sold in April

No Big Soo Coupon books were sold. There are two left in the inventory.

Three Holy Water bottles were picked up. There are eight remaining.

There are 10 prayer shawls on hand. The group has a \$706.82 balance in their account.

The Elizabeth Ministry group made a \$100.00 donation to the DeVona Summers Memorial.

Elizabeth Ministry has no events planned for the month of May.

There have been 129 prayer requests made YTD.

Deacon Mike Conrads is the Respect Life Chairperson.

It was recommended that the Respect Life group set up a regular meeting schedule and send out e-mails to invite others to attend.

Louise Johnson, present leader of Social Ministry, led a discussion on finding a new leader for Social Ministry. The Volunteer Sign Up surfaced about three possible names who may have an interest.

2. Jean Rasmussen reported on *Eucharistic Ministry Outreach* via Karen Mavity. Karen noted two new Eucharistic Ministers have volunteered. There are 2-4 new residents at Ward Enterprises who will be receiving Holy Communion. Karen mentioned too that there is one new member to the *Prayer Shawl Ministry*.

3. Beverly Christopherson had previously presented a *Parish Nurse* report to Father Hal. Father will pass it along to Louise Johnson prior to the Parish Council meeting. Beverly held blood pressure screenings after Masses on the weekend of May 16-17 at St. Therese.

4. Louise Johnson reported on *Social Ministry*. They filled over 2,000 back packs for the Back Pack Program in the Sioux Falls Public Schools on May 6. Social Ministry is planning a month-long Household Shower in July for the new

St. Francis House. Sue Williams will organize a group of high school students who will create cards from a list of suggested gifts for parishioners to pick and purchase. A discussion was heard about the Silent Auction to be held in September at St. Therese. The talk centered on gift baskets and how to assemble them to include parish participation.

### **New Business:**

Shirley Donnelly discussed office volunteers. Shirley will prioritize jobs, call a meeting, then enlist help from the office volunteers.

Neighborhood Parish Leaders will be encouraged to update the handbook that describes the purpose of the NPL. It is hoped that they will be able to accomplish this work by July with a goal of being in operation by September '09. A member/s of the NPL will be invited to the Social Outreach Fellowship meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

Neighborhood Parish Leaders will serve a Welcome Dinner to new members of St. Therese on Saturday, June 6, 2009 after the 4:00 Mass.

Farther Barber, Shirley Donnelly and Julie Derner will head up an effort to create a group who will be in charge of welcoming newcomers to St. Therese Parish. A representative from each of the Parish Committees will be invited to help formulate the Welcome to St. Therese Parish Committee. Suggestions were made about contacting the newcomer/s, inviting them to Mass, and offering practical information about the city as part of the welcome package. It is hoped that the committee will be in operation by September '09.

Father Hal shared with the group an offer from Reverend Jeff Sorenson of Messiah New Hope Lutheran Church. Rev. Sorenson has invited St. Therese to work with Messiah New Hope in a door-to-door effort to contact residents in the area and welcome them and invite them to church.

Father also received information about a low cost food source that has a base operation in Spencer, IA. There is no location in South Dakota presently. Spencer, IA is the nearest location. The program distributes cartons of food to all members of a community. The amount of food in the carton is sufficient for about one week. A member of St. Therese is gathering more information about how St. Therese may be able to be a part of this worthy effort.

Plans were discussed about hosting a coffee on the veranda by the rose garden on the weekends of Sunday, June 28 and again on Sunday, July 5 after both the Masses. The Knights of Columbus will serve a pancake breakfast on July 11-12 on the veranda also.

On May 28 Dan Smith will be ordained to the transitional diaconate, one year from final ordination. He will assist at the Masses at St. Therese on the following weekend (May 30-31). He will be available for coffee and conversation after the Masses. St. Therese has

a small gift for him, including a large greeting card designed by a young member of the parish. Everyone is invited to sign the card with a message for Dan.

Louise Johnson closed the meeting with a commentary from Word Among Us on the readings from the Mass of the day and a prayer.

Next meeting is Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at St. Therese Church.

Jean Rasmussen, secretary