

St. Therese Parish
Social Outreach Fellowship Committee
Thursday, October, 8, 2009, 6:30 pm

Members present: Father Hal Barber, Chuck Edwards, Haley Hunhoff, Louise Oven,
Louise Johnson, Jean Rasmussen, Sue Williams,
and Guest- Eric Dietrich

Father Barber opened the meeting with a prayer.

Louise Johnson read the Mission and Vision statements.

1. Eric Dietrich from the Neighborhood Parish Leaders group gave a report on the revisions made to the NPL Handbook. To replace the handbook, they have designed a listing of guidelines instead. The purpose of the leaders as stated in the new document is to lead, not do all the work. By inviting others to assist, more of the parish family will be given the opportunity to serve God and others as well as foster fellowship. NPL has October 31 as a deadline for the finalization of the document. At that time the newly revised copy will be presented to the Parish Council.

NPL is proposing a new event to allow card-players an evening out. It would be scheduled on Wednesday evenings to coincide with Religious Education. Parents waiting for their Religious Education children may wish to join the card players or at least have an opportunity meet more members of the St. Therese parish family. NPL is also planning Turkey Bingo on Sunday, November 22. They may use hand-outs placed in the end of the pews at the weekend Masses to invite parishioners to assist/sign up to help host the Bingo event. They will have pies, bars, cookies, etc. for concession and may auction some pies. One suggestion was to possibly use the proceeds for liturgical Advent decorations for the church.

The newly formed Welcome Committee of St. Therese has expressed an interest in joining with or coordinating with the Neighborhood Parish Leaders, since they share purpose and mission. Eric Dietrich, from NPL, has been invited to attend the next Welcome Committee meeting.

Other suggestions presented:

- a. Discover the "interests" of the new member/s and pair them with a present member/s with similar interests.
 - b. Offer to meet after Mass to socialize, if meeting in homes is not suitable.
 - c. A gift bag rather than a basket could be used to package the gift items for the newcomer.
2. The St. Therese web site is an excellent place to keep current with parish happenings.
 3. The End of Life workshop, organized by parish nurse, Bev Christopherson, is on Sat. October 17, from 9:30 to 12:00.

4. The Life Chain held on Sunday, October 4, was poorly attended this year. Suggestions were made to encourage a better response. Louise J. asked Chuck Edwards to compile a list of suggestions to encourage a revived interest in pro-life issues/events.
5. Sue Williams presented information on Alternative Market at St. Therese. To participate, one selects one of three charitable causes. Offer a monetary gift, then send a Christmas card to the person you would have gifted to let them know that you have given a gift in their name.
6. This year the causes are:
 - a. St. Therese family in need
 - b. Sioux Falls Public School Backpack Program
 - c. Establishment of a Health Clinic in Guatemala. Effort led by S. Liz RemilyMethods to advertise the event were discussed. Chuck Edwards will speak after the Masses on weekends prior to the event. The church bulletin, handouts, posters and church e-mail will be used to advertise. The market will be held on November 14-15 and November 21-22.
7. Louise Johnson reminded the group of the Pauline Hanson Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, November 4, 2009. Proceeds will go to Community Outreach. Corrine Barnes will be in charge of food.
8. An invitation from a representative for Habitat for Humanity contacted Louise Johnson to invite St. Therese to join the Habitat for Humanity effort. Louise explained the stipulations in an e-mail and asked the SOFC members to respond in an e-mail message with their thoughts/ideas.

The group closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

In His service,

Jean Rasmussen, scribe