

St. Therese

Social Outreach Fellowship Committee

Minutes of October 14, 2010 Meeting

Members present: Beverly Christopherson, Rick Collins, Shirley Donnelly, Chuck Edwards, Louise Johnson, Jean Rasmussen, Sue Williams and guest, Margie Smotherman

Members absent: Haley Samuelson

Opening prayer: Chuck Edwards

Mission and Goals of Social Outreach Committee: Jean Rasmussen

1. In the absence of Haley Samuelson, Louise Johnson made comments on the newly formed **Welcome Committee**. It is well received and appreciated by most newcomers to St. Therese.
2. Chuck Edwards reported on **Respect Life**. The Life Chain held on 41st Street held on Oct. 3 was well attended by St. Therese parishioners. An estimated count was about 50 parishioners from St. Therese Church. The volunteers that assisted with the Life Chain included: Deacon Mike Conrads, Cathy Anderson, Lew Mavity and Chuck Edwards.
There will be a video shown at St. Therese about *Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta* on Sunday, October 24 at 2:00 in conjunction with respect life month.
3. Rick Collins reported on the **Adult Youth Group**. Sara Lipetzky is planning a Corn Maze event on Saturday, Oct. 16. The group will leave from the church at 3:00. Invitations were sent by e-mail from the church office.
4. Louise Johnson reported on the **Teacher Appreciation** events. Traditionally the teachers were remembered at Christmas time and at the end of the school year. Louise J. and Shelly Goetz are brain storming ideas for new ways to show appreciation to teachers and hoping to involve the parents.
5. Jean Rasmussen reported on **Eucharistic Outreach**. There are about 10 individuals at Ward Enterprises and three homebound individuals who receive Holy Communion from St. Therese Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers. Presently there are no individuals at Green Leaf who request Holy Communion.
6. Jean Rasmussen reported on the **Prayer Shawl Ministry**. The knitters have recently included *Baptismal baby blankets*, as well as prayer shawls. A photo was shown of a sample Baptismal blanket. It is white with a lovely textured crocheted stitch.
7. Sue Williams reported on **Social Ministry**. Social Ministry will again sponsor the Alternative Christmas Gift Shoppe on the first two weekends in November. The ministry has chosen:
 - 1.) St. Therese family/ies in need
 - 2.) Children's Connection, a support group for children of incarcerated parents
 - 3.) Bishop Kettler's diocese in Alaska that has two Catholic Schools, an elementary and a high school.

Social Ministry will also invite St. Therese to fill *back packs for schools* on November 2, 2010. *Pauline's Thanksgiving Dinner* will be served at St. Therese on November 10, at 5:15 or 5:30. Vern and Mary Fries served a *Spaghetti Supper* on Wednesday, October 13. About 80 people attended earning about \$350.00.

Discussion was heard about future Wednesday night meals with possible dates and possible committees serving the meals. One Wednesday night meal could be a Thank You to teachers as one of the ways to show teacher appreciation. The *Mexican Fiesta Meal* is set on the calendar for February 12. With Ash Wednesday falling on March 9th, further discussion was heard about a possible Mardi Gras Meal at the end of February.

8. Louise Johnson reported on **Parish Activity Leaders** who will sponsor *Saturday Night Live* on Saturday, October 16 from 7:00-11:00 in the parish gathering space. PALS had received an OK from the city of Sioux Falls "to consume but not sell" with the agreement to stop serving at 9:30. These guidelines also comply with Catholic Mutual Insurance.
9. Beverly Christopherson, parish nurse, reported on the **Parish Nurse** activities. She will discontinue the *blood pressure screenings* due to lack of interest and lack of volunteer nurses. She met Margie Smotherman at the meeting. They will explore ways and means of providing support to those in the parish who have suffered loss of various kinds. They hope to combine their energies with the Elizabeth Ministry to reach out to parishioners who otherwise may "fall through the cracks." M. Smotherman brings expertise in marketing to the mix. Ways to identify those in need was discussed with confidentiality to be considered.

Brainstorming included:

- those in nursing/assisted living residences,
- an announcement in the bulletin requesting names of loved ones who would benefit from home visits,
- web site ad,
- flyers in bathrooms,
- business cards placed in all Care Notes,
- Prayer requests that come to St. Therese prayer chain,
- Books checked out from Grief library, etc.

B. Christopherson brought to the meeting a supply of *Care Notes*, that cover multiple topics. Discussion was held about how to let the parish know about the Care Notes.

B. Christopherson also has a small library of *books on grief* to check out from the parish. A notice in the church bulletin will announce the location and availability of the literature to be enjoyed by the parish.

B. Christopherson has set an *End of Life Seminar* for October 22, 2011. Father David Stevens and Travis Benson have agreed to be on the panel of presenters.

Paige Rock has also shown an interest in working with Elizabeth Ministry.

10. The topic **Greeters at Mass** was discussed. A suggestion was made that church *committee members serve as greeters during the Lenten season*. On the weekend they serve, they would also set up a display or provide hand-outs or in some way, explain their committee work to the

parish. It is the hope that more parish members would be excited about parish service and become involved in committee work or bring ideas to the committees.

A shortage of altar servers was also discussed.

The meeting closed with the Hail Mary.

In His service,

Jean Rasmussen, scribe