

St. Therese Parish
Social Outreach Fellowship Committee
Thursday, November 12, 2009, 6:30 pm

Members present: Father Hal Barber, Shirley Donnelly, Chuck Edwards, Louise Oven,
Louise Johnson, Jean Rasmussen, Jean Zutz

Members absent: Haley Hunhoff, Sue Williams

Shirley Donnelly opened the meeting with the Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Louise Johnson read the Mission and Vision Statements.

Reports from the Action Ministries were heard...

Elizabeth Ministry and Prayer Warriors-

Shirley Donnelly expressed appreciation for the assistance she is receiving from a volunteer who is updating the Rose Buds in Elizabeth Ministry. Shirley explained the purpose of the four colors of rose buds. Elizabeth Ministry is a woman to woman ministry that attempts to match "like minded" people to offer support.

No news from the Prayer Warriors.

Prayer Shawl and Eucharistic Outreach Ministry-

Jean Rasmussen reported that Donna Hagert and friends with the Prayer Shawl Group planned, prepared and served the Birthday Breakfast for Father Hal's 70th Birthday Breakfast on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 after the 8:00 Mass.

No news from the Eucharistic Outreach.

Respect Life Ministry-

Chuck Edwards presented ideas to encourage involvement in Respect Life Ministry. Chuck also prepared a letter to Deacon Mike Conrads to offer assistance to the Respect Life group from the Social Outreach Fellowship group. Ideas to improve participation in the Life Chain on 41st Street held each October were heard: Advertise in advance, Car pool from St. Therese or set a location for St. Therese people to meet, Sign up at church, Speaker at Masses, Pew slips, Posters, etc.

Parish Nurse-

Bev Christopherson has been doing Blood Pressure Checks after Masses. She organized the End of Life seminar held at St. Therese in October. Between 15 and 20 attended. Rolls and coffee were provided. It was suggested that another seminar be scheduled in 2010. Bev hopes to increase the number of visitations to homes when her work load lessens.

Development Committee-

Estate Planning was brought up as another worthy seminar to host in 2010.

Social Ministry-

Louise Johnson reported on the **Alternative Market**. It will be held on the next two weekends, November 14-15 and 21-22. The forms are prepared and the workers are assigned to each of the weekend Masses. It is hoped that the Alternative Market will become an annual event. Chuck Edwards and Louise Oven will provide posters and signs to advertise.

Louise also reported on **Pauline's Turkey Dinner**. About 125 people attended the successful event. It too will become an annual event. After expenses, enough funds were collected to pay for nine months of St. Therese's donation to Community Outreach.

Louise and Shirley reported on the progress of the newly formed **Welcome Committee**. Shirley registers about 50 newcomers each year. Several suggestions were heard to welcome the new parishioners: Registration would include a tour of the church, offices and classrooms, meet the staff, fill out an interest survey, receive a copy of events going on at church, etc. Items to be placed in the Welcome Basket were suggested. A greeting card could be reproduced from the photographs that Lloyd Cunningham has taken at St. Therese. The greeting card could be used as one option for the parish priest to offer words of warmth and welcome. Ideally each newcomer would have a mentor to ease them into the life of the church. Hopefully the newcomer would indicate the desire for/or against having a mentor. Volunteers to the Welcome Committee will be sought in 2010. Julie Derner will be the contact person for the Welcome Committee.

The Neighborhood Parish Leaders-

The Neighborhood Parish Leaders minutes may be read on the St. Therese web site. They will meet on November 18, 2009. Eric Dietrich will present the newly updated booklet of guidelines to the Parish Council on November 24, 2009. The next NPL event is Turkey Bingo on Sunday, November 22.

Also on November 22 is a Mass of Thanksgiving at 11:00 with reception to follow with the Sisters of Adoration at the Cathedral Gym. Each parish is asked to send 10 representatives from their parish.

With an effort to recruit more involvement in parish life, it was suggested that we invite others to attend the monthly meetings of the particular committees.

The goal being:

- to inform more people about parish work,
- to invite more to become members and
- to hear their suggestions/concerns about St. Therese.

Father Barber closed the meeting with a prayer.

In His service,

Jean Rasmussen, scribe