

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
February 6, 2018

The meeting was opened with a prayer. Bill asked all of the committee members to make their reports brief, so that Mark Migaleddi could outline the strategic plan he is working on for the parish.

ST VINCENT DEPAUL: Terri Denver passed out copies of their financial report for 2017. 364 families received financial aid, 1499 received food from the pantry, 2392 homeless meals were served, in all, over 6630 people were touched by one of the eleven programs sponsored by St. Vincent DePaul.

CHRISTMAS IN APRIL: Prosper said that their technical issues with their computer program had been resolved, and that they had more applications than last year, but still not nearly enough. It was suggested that he place information concerning the program in the bulletin, asking for applications.

RIGHT TO LIFE: Susan said that 31 students from Good Shepherd School and 34 other youngsters from the parish attended the March for Life in Washington D.C. The "Forty Days for Life" will begin on Ash Wednesday, and the parish will be asked to offer prayers and sacrifice during Lent for the cause.

PRAYER LINE/ S.A.M: Marie stated that the Prayer Line continues in spite of the new regulations concerning privacy. She said that 12-15 people regularly attend the Adult Senior Luncheon meetings, but that the population was declining due to health and other reasons. Bill commented that the SVDP luncheons were also having the same problem.

MEDICAL MISSIONS: Barbara reported that her group, which almost did not go because of the severe flooding in the mountains, ended up serving over 2500 people. She said that there was a great need for canes, as people have to walk so many miles in mountainous terrain. She said the the Rising Sun Lions through Bud McFadden were helping with this problem, and that the Global Health Ministry, run by the Sisters of Mercy, will gladly accept all such donations.

For many years, our parish has helped this program by donating vitamins for the patients. We will begin this project in March, so that we can get the vitamins to them in time for Barbara's next trip. She will need Adult and Children's vitamins with iron (NO GUMMIES.)

YOUTH GROUP: Paula said that a few kids made the Mount 2000 retreat/pilgrimage. She said that the biggest need right now is for "service opportunities" for the confirmation class. She suggested that perhaps the kid a could collect canes for Barbara or "jogging strollers" for her. Prosper suggested that they concentrate on visiting the elderly or veterans. The question arose about "how do we reach them? It was suggested that we, as a parish, do a lousy job of reaching out to folks in need of someone to get the mail or move trash cans. Marie suggested that an announcement in the bulletin or on Facebook, or any other announcement should include having the person call the office and that she would get the information to Paula.

STRATEGIC PLAN: Mark Migaleddi said that he had been asked by Fr. Jay and Deacon Luke to devise a plan for the parish for a year or 18 months, and a long term overall plan for the parish. The plan would be divided into four parts: Vision, Mission, Objectives, and Action. The progress of the Vision Committee has been published in the bulletin for the last few weeks. Essentially, based on a survey done in 2013, with 218 responses from parishioners we need a "community campus" with all facilities on the same site, and one worship center.

The suggested objectives are: to improve worship, Divine liturgy and prayer life in the parish; to evangelize, to educate, to be responsible stewards of our property. Essentially, to provide a faith community where all are welcome, all our encouraged to share their time, talent and treasure within the parish and the community at large. The goal is to have this plan ready in June for the parish Council's approval, and then have it published for the parishioners. All agreed that the biggest problem is always communication, and it's important that this plan be disseminated in as many ways as possible.

Barbara said, "A good example of this has been the "Prayer Shawl Ministry." When she found out that all of these shawls were made, she thought of giving them to women who were recovering from addictions. They were so grateful that someone was praying for them. It was wonderful to see."

It was agreed that there are wonderful programs in the parish—CCD, Bible Study, Bereavement, etc., but we need to get "the word out" about these and other programs.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Marilyn Pare