

## **Social Justice Committee Minutes – May 3, 2011**

All committees met in Chapel for Evening Prayer at 6:30 PM.

Members attending were Deb Hoppa, Deacon Peter Burek, Bruce Chopp, Terry Delavan, Sue Grunow, Pat McKeogh, Mike Meverden and Tess Mitchell.

### **Subcommittee Reports –**

**NAOMI** – Bruce Chopp gave update on the NAOMI task forces. The Mental Health Task Force is concerned about the issue of the possible elimination of Metro Ride services in Weston, as this will limit the accessibility of transportation to mental health appointments for clients. There will be a meeting at St. Anne's from 8 to 9 PM on May 14<sup>th</sup> at which Mr. Greg Seubert of Metro Ride will speak. There will also be a public meeting of the Weston Village Board in June to address this issue. Phyllis will be able to put information in the bulletin regarding the June meeting for those who may be interested in attending.

Bruce also provided information from the NAOMI Dental Health Task Force about an event called Mission of Mercy. This will be a two day event, June 24 & 25, at Greenheck Field House where several local dentists will provide care for up to 2000 patients who have no dental insurance. Many volunteers are needed to help set up, tear down, and provide administrative assistance. Bruce will ask Phyllis to put this volunteer opportunity in the bulletin as well.

Deacon Peter advised that Fr. Bill remains concerned about participation in NAOMI since he has been getting some negative feedback from a few parishioners. Bruce advised that the goals of the local and state affiliates show no issues that contradict Catholic teachings. Bishop Callahan will have the final approval about continued participation.

**Catholic Charities** – Deb Hoppa advised that the money from the Diocese of La Crosse for utility assistance should be available soon. Catholic Charities has also received an incentive grant from United Way. There was positive feedback about the listening session held at St. Michael's by Catholic Charities on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Lenten Soup Suppers** – Mike Meverden advised that the Soup Suppers had fewer participants this year than last year. The suppers raised between \$1200-1300 which will be given to St. Vincent de Paul Society. The volunteers were signed up differently this year but were sufficient to serve the needs of the events.

**Lenten Wednesday Soup Lunches** – Pat McKeogh advised that the Soup Lunches were successful. Soup will again be provided to shut-ins on the third Wednesday of each month. She receives the names from parish nurse Pam Frary or through the parish.

### **New Business –**

**Mother's Day Rose Sale** – Sue Grunow (SM) and Pat McKeogh (CR) will again be heading up the Rose Sale to benefit the local Right to Life group. They will pick up the roses on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> and drop the money collected off on May 8<sup>th</sup> after the last masses.

**Disaster Relief** – Deacon Peter gave out information about disaster relief efforts in the Diocese of La Crosse which will provide funding to Catholic Charities USA for tornado victims in the Southeastern US. There is a link on the diocesan website for those who wish to donate. Pat McKeogh suggested that the information be put into the bulletin, which Peter will do.

**Baby Shower** – Connie Michlig sent a message that there will be donation boxes at each of the parishes to collect items to benefit Rebecca's Closet. Specific items needed will be printed in the bulletin. This will go on for the next two weekends, beginning on Mother's Day.

**Other** – Mike Meverden advised group of new email address. Deacon Peter will follow up on WCC Action Alert about the Federal Budget, which was discussed at the last Social Justice Committee Meeting.

Meeting closed with a prayer for peace and justice.

**Next Meeting** – Tentatively first Tuesday in September.