

MPH Human Concerns Committee MINUTES

March 12, 2025 - 5:30 PM in the Notre Dame Room

Present: Beth M., Carrie G., Kathy S., Dave S., Deb P., Janice L., John W., Nancy D., Sr. Lincy, Widge L.

Ongoing Business

- Parish Council Overview –Minutes are on the website
- V.F.P. – Minutes on the website soon, note it is *Voice FOR the Poor* now.
- Baptismal Bags –two in March; family of 3 rescheduled to April.
- St. Ben's - Next Serving date: Monday, March 17; Next bag assembly: Thursdays March 20 & 27
- Sandwich Ministry –Next sandwich making: Tuesday, March 11
- Hunger Task Force Stock Box – Next is Tuesday, March 11
- Crossroads Kitchen –Next cooking/serving dates: Sunday, March 30, none in April
- MPH SVdP & HTF Food Pantry –Pantry every Saturday & Wednesday
- NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARTNERSHIP ON DISABILITY – Jim H. meeting with the Knights of Columbus together with Building and Grounds John Gomez on Monday. Will report at the next meeting.

Old Business updates:

- “Stay Connected and Celebrate Life” occurred on March 4; Sr. Lincy reported that it was collaborative with Senior Ministry, Homebound Ministry with invitations extended to almost anyone in ministry as well as those served; it was well attended (145) with staff present, and Ministers of Care as hosts. It was noted that this compared to 25 pre-registered with about 40 in attendance at the first event in November, and 79 in attendance with 25 take-out lunches at the event at St. Camillus in January. Positive feedback was received from the attendees at this one.
- The first “10 Hour Eucharistic Adoration” in Lent was not well attended, 3-4 during the day, 20 or so at Benediction in the evening. HCC was represented there as individuals vs. as a committee, due to work and other schedules making a single time impossible.
- MARCH & APRIL Lenten Outreach –
 - Congo Helping Hands will have a presentation at all masses at the end of March.
 - Project Return Dignity Kits – Items being collected at both worship sites all month long. Once the collection ends, kits will be assembled with any extras to be donated to the Hygiene Drive led by Capuchin Community Services.
 - Rice Bowls – collections are being done by the Religious Education classes and families; parishioners have been asked to give online or by picking up a box at the office or the worship sites. This was added to our parish outreach after the Executive Orders were issued by our USA President, that pulled federal support for all agencies served by USAID which included Catholic Relief Services (CRS).
- Meijer Simply Give Campaign for winter (supports our Food Pantry) - donations collected were turned in (over \$1,200) on double match day. Next drive begins in April.

New Business

- **APRIL SPOTLIGHT** – A.R.K./Senior Ministry for Easter –Cards for residents at Allis Care Center are being done by Adult Confirmation Candidates; Treats for the staff at Allis Care Center and Thank You cards are being coordinated by Adult Confirmation people as well.
- **MAY SPOTLIGHTS:**
 - ERAS Senior Network, Tapestry Gala (May 8; Brookfield Conference Center) A Raffle basket is being put together by Carrie with donations (West Allis area gift cards) collected from HCC members.

- Mother's Day Rose sale (May 10 & 11) - The group discussed using: Wisconsin Right to Life (last year's vendor) or Pro-Life. The decision was WRTL since that is the group that is the most local, and we have used them for years without any difficulties. John W. will coordinate the pickup of the roses and all that entails, as he has done for the last several years. Volunteers needed at all masses that weekend: 4:00 – John W., Sandy M., Kathy S., Nancy D. 8:30 – Deb & Jim P., Sr. Lincy 10:30 – Widge L., Beth M. 7:00 – Carrie G., Kathy S., Deb & Jim P.
- May is Mental Health Awareness month – Kathy will investigate the possibility of a presentation from NAMI. John W. suggested Bob Hagen (VFP NAMI representative); they will coordinate.
- **JUNE SPOTLIGHT:** Capuchin Walk for the Hungry – Polish Fest is June 13 & 14. For MPH participation Beth will coordinate the Greenfield Park walk on Saturday for those who can't make the Friday one; Kathy will coordinate the Polish Fest walk on Friday, as we have done in the past.
- **Festival Raffle Basket** – MPH Parish Festival is June 22, 23 and donations are being accepted for our Raffle basket donation; group is coordinating a spa basket.
- **Additional items discussed – Group**
 - Suggestion made to hold a "Summer Speaker Series" at the Cleveland Pub. Kathy will look for dates. Topic suggestions included someone from the Congregation of the Great Spirit (Fr. Ed) to speak on Native Americans and the Catholic Church; the NAMI speaker; have Sr. Lincy speak regarding any cultural nuances an Indian heritage Catholic mass might have.
 - Catholic Ecology Center – possible date for families to gather there in summer; market the many activities available to families and individuals.
 - Nancy shared a Welcome Bag that was given out at a neighboring ELCA church.

Upcoming meetings: Will continue on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Notre Dame Room - April 9 – change to April 2? (due to Parish Mission), May 14, maybe June 11

Note: Easter is April 20

The Group closed with intentions and the closing prayer.