

J&H Meeting 9/20/16

Present- Rachel Westenberg, Mary Connors, Kelly Thiry, Kay Schumacher, Mike Westenberg, Jackie Thiry

Meeting started with scripture readings from "At Home with the Word" for September 25. Discussion questions were: "Who is Lazarus in our world today and What examples of complacency do you see around you?" Thoughts included:

-Syrian refugees: They are dying because they have no place to go. There seems a callousness about their plight.

-Poor: Poor are often vilified. Income disparity is unacceptable. CEOs and professional athlete income is beyond comprehension. How much is enough?

-People suffering from racism: Why are there still ghettos? Where are the voices calling out the discrimination.

Catholic Social Teaching – Jackie shared information on Citizen's Climate Lobby. It is a nonpartisan, nonprofit group whose mission is to reduce CO2 emissions to 20% of 1990 levels by 2050. There are chapters throughout the world. CCL is working to enact legislation placing a direct and steadily-increasing fee on carbon-based fuel. The increased cost will encourage the move toward clean energy sources. The legislation is designed to return revenue from the carbon fee to households to help off-set short-term increased energy costs. It should be revenue neutral for the majority of people. The poor will likely come out ahead. CCL members are meeting with legislators in November and have asked supporters to sign a letter which conveys the concern of climate change. Jackie handed out the letter and asked committee to return it to the J&HC mail box or mail it to Jim Servais, 4607 Reforestation Rd. Suamico WI 54313 by October 7.

Parish Council report- Minutes are posted on the web-site at [stmatthsgb.org](http://stmatthsgb.org). Please read August minutes for information on Ecumenical Partnership for Housing and the new web-site for St. Matthew Parish. September minutes give an update of coming events. Annual Parish meeting will be October 8-9 and Stewardship weekend is November 12-13.

Haiti- Kay reported the Ohio and Wisconsin Hands and Hearts with Haiti group met in July. The cost for the land for the Catholic high school in Mirebalais is \$100,000. A payment of \$10,000 (paid with a Kellogg grant) will hold the land. An ad hoc committee was formed that will concentrate on looking for outside funding for the schools. Kay is looking into a grant but has been unable to contact resource (Father Andy). Rachel advised her to contact pastor at St. Willebords. He helped her get a grant for Joshua last year.

Joshua- Joshua recycle fundraiser with Cyber Green, a non-profit division of Cyber Works, will be held at St. Matthews on September 24 from 8 to noon. There will be a bake sale included. If you can help, just show up. There has been lots of interest (phone calls / face book posts) in the upcoming re-cycle event.

On September 21, Joshua will be holding a sit in at the county board meeting. The Sheriff will be giving an in depth presentation about the \$1.6-\$2 million jail expansion and why we need to "look at a jail expansion". We will be meeting at 6:15 pm to again talk with supervisors about our concerns and reminding them of the questions that they should be asking the sheriff during his presentation.

Ban the box is on hold at this time. Joshua will be working on pay day loans and EXPO (closed meetings for former prisoners). Many of the programs out there focus on helping families who have members in prison and programs while incarcerated.

St. Vincent de Paul- InterAct: Bridges out of Poverty workshops are still being held. Jackie hoped to do one at St. Matthews. Rachel suggested Joshua and J&HC partner put on a workshop in 2017.

SVDP is opening a Dig N Save at 2121 Van Duren St. the beginning of October. They have a rent lease for two years. There are more donations than storage space and rather than rent another warehouse or throw stuff away, decision was made to open a Dig N Save. This type of store has done well in college towns. Items that do not sell at the current store will be sold here. Merchandise is sold from bins and sold by the pound. They hope to save 50% on landfill.

Ecumenical Prayer Service- Approximately fifty people attended the Prayer Service for Creation on September 19 at St. Matthews as part of the world's celebration of "Season of Creation". It was well done. Highlights were the Genesis reading done to music and Sister Rose Jochmann, OSF, story of the Sisters' decision to install solar panels.

St. John Homeless Shelter- Rachel suggested using the symbol of a homeless person lying on a bench in front of church. All agreed it would speak to people on the reality of being homeless. Plan for 10/22-23 weekend includes:

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| -Get bench  | Rachel |
| -Ask high school students (3), possibly confirmation candidates | Mike   |
| -Design poster with scripture reading                           | Kelly  |
| -Check out possible ordering of prayer card to hand out         | Kelly  |
| -Materials for table including sign up sheet                    | Jackie |
| -Blanket  | Kay    |

Faithful Citizenship- Display / table will happen on weekend of November 5-6. Goal is to encourage people to vote. Plan includes:

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| -Put voting registration form and absentee ballot form request in bulletins sent to the homebound. Will be done September 24-25.   | Jackie  |
| -Write bulletin announcement asking for volunteers to give rides to polls. Include telling people who want a ride to call the parish center. Talk to Margaret about process. | Mary C. |
| -Materials for table   | Jackie  |

Calendar Review:

- Recycle event 9/24
- Hour Adoration 9/26
- St. Vincent de Paul feast day mass at St. Matthew, 7:30, 9/27
- Fair trade coffee served 10/15-16
- St. John Homeless Shelter weekend 10/22-23
- Next meeting October 18, 6:30**
- Joshua annual banquet 11/4
- Faithful Citizenship weekend 11/5-6