

J&H Meeting 11/15/16

Present- Rachel Westenberg, Kay Schumacher, Father Bob, Mike Westenberg, Jackie Thiry

Meeting started with scripture readings from "At Home with the Word" for November 20. Discussion question was: "What do you understand to be the relationship between the Church and the Kingdom of God?" Thoughts included:

- We agreed we are the church.
- The Kingdom is now, here on earth. We do not wait until death and then go to God's kingdom.
- God reveals His kingdom through creation.
- The kingdom is the whole cosmos.
- We all are responsible to build the kingdom of God, individually and as community..

Catholic Social Teaching – Jackie shared an article from the magazine, America, The National Catholic Review. It called us to solidarity after the extremely divisive election. Pope Francis reminds us it is the poor who disproportionately bear the costs of division and inequity. The church must encourage Catholics to find practical solidarity with their political opponents, sharing worship and conversation and the works of mercy. We discussed:- The need to talk / listen to each other. -How do you confront racism. -The need for education on bias. -Advocacy for the vulnerable.

Parish Council report- Minutes are posted on the web-site at stmatthsgb.org. The St. Matthew web site has been revamped. Check it out.

Haiti- Kay reported a request for a \$25,000 grant was sent to the Norbertine Augustinian organization for the school in Noyau. Goldsmith Joseph left some of the craft items (belts, sandals, bracelets, purses) made by Haitian students which we will sell with the Central crafts before Christmas. We gave Goldsmith a check for \$363 for the inventory so her students can purchase more supplies.

Joshua- Joshua yearly banquet was held on Friday, November 4 at Gather on Broadway. 140 people attended which was much better than the last two years.. Approximately \$7000 profit was made with ticket sales and silent auction. The ad book netted \$6000. Joshua is currently waiting for status of approval of CCHD grant. They should know by 11/22 if they go to next round of application.

St. Vincent de Paul- Stronger Together Brown County met 11/14. SVDP initiated the community building meetings this past Spring hoping to find support for Bridges Out of Poverty and Getting Ahead Workshop. This Inter-Act program is a vehicle for helping people change their lives. At the end of the night, attendees signed up to help with Inter-act and / or be part of an on-going community building organization.

St. John Homeless Shelter- Group concurred the "Homeless Jesus" got the message across of helping the homeless. I was very proud of St. Matthews. Several people stopped to ask the "homeless Jesus" if they could help. He was invited to come into church. Someone threw \$10 into his bag. Ann was approached to "do something" to care for him. Fewer people signed up to fill shifts after masses as in past years. J&HC needs to cover 12/4. Tom Schmacher and Mary Hoehne have 1st shift. Rachel and Ben Westenberg will do 2nd shift. Shifts are covered through 12/4.

Faithful Citizenship- Display / table was set-up on weekend of November 5-6. Goal was to encourage people to vote. Very few packets of Faithful Citizen guides were picked up. Some people did stop to look at poll location map. There were no ride requests to take people to the polls. Father Bob did not hear anything back from the absentee ballots sent out to the homebound.

Central America Craft sale- Crafts will be sold the 1st three weekends in December. Jackie and her daughter, Jodi, will set up each weekend. Kay will cover the 4:30 mass on 12/17. Jackie will also need help between the end of 8:30 mass and beginning of 10:30 mass on 12/11. Please let her know if you can help.

Justice Herald- The Justice Herald will focus on the St. Matthew Endowment fund grants. Articles need to be turned into Rachel by 11/30. Target publish date is weekend of 12/10-11. Plan is to try to keep it to two / three pages and it will be a bulletin stuffer. Articles are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| -Ecumenical Housing | Father Bob |
| -History of Endowment grants | Mike / Penny |
| -Summary of last year's grants | Jackie |
| -Invitation to give to endowment fund | Mike |

Calendar Review:

- Hour Adoration 11/28
- St. John Homeless Shelter Sunday coverage
- Fair trade coffee served 11/19-20 & 12/17-18
- Craft sale 12/3-4, 12/10-11, 12/17-18