

Joint Meeting on Social Ministries Minutes  
7 – 8:30 PM, September 27, 2017  
St. James Chapel, 718 Franklin Avenue, Wilkinsburg

Present: Fr. David Taylor, Pearl Clemons, Emily Lippert, Rob Dalmasse, Joanne Bradley, Marleen Tucker, Nadine Powell, John Williams, Teresa Maynor, Buffy Halle, Karen Thomas, Estella Armstrong, Jim Ruck, Lois Campbell, Sr. Joyce Hylazewski, Evelyn Christie, Victor Thorpe, William and Veronica Snyder, Tabetha Mwitz, Paul Titus, Gary Henderson, Jeanne Clancey, Joyce Rothermel, Eugenia Moore and Cathy Raffaele

Purpose of the meeting: Information sharing about our parishes' social ministry work and fellowship.

The meeting opened with prayer and introductions. Lois Campbell facilitated and asked each person to tell their parish, years of membership, and social ministries in which they served.

A representative from each parish was asked to provide a listing of the social ministries in their respective parish. The following is what got recorded on the large charts:

St. Charles Lwanga:

Structure: Pastoral Council – ministries report to and flow from.

- 1) St. Vincent de Paul
  - A. Food Pantries
    - Corpus Christi serving Lincoln-Larimar: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday
    - Holy Rosary serving Homewood-Brushton – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays
  - B. They work together.
  - C. They deliver food to the Sen. Citizens Housing Units
  - D. Provide in kind and sometimes financial assistance including burials, energy assistance, etc.
  - E. Twin with some other parishes and are supported by collections
- 2) Relationship and Support of Community Empowerment Association which includes a youth ministries
- 3) Relationship and Support of Homewood-Brushton Council of Churches serving those in poverty and advocacy.
- 4) Use of Parish Facilities for Hospitality
- 5) Ladies Auxiliary of Knights of St. Peter Claver – supports the school and other ministries
- 6) Member of PIIN – advocacy
- 7) Angel Tree at Christmas Time
- 8) Immigrant Assistance – sponsored Somalia families

St. James:

Structure: Pastoral Council, Social Justice and Community Action Committee

- 1) Food and Paper Bank for Wilkinsburg Residents – Third Saturday
- 2) Mary's Child -Third Saturday
  - serves mothers and children up to age 5
  - diapers, wipes, formula (when available), books, toys, referrals, health ministry (gets help from the St. Peter Claver Women's Auxiliary)

- 3) Health Ministry:
  - Parishioners: last weekend after Masses – blood pressure, flu shots
  - Those served at food bank – third Saturday – same services, counseling on meds and nutrition
  - Monthly health education – posters, materials, etc.
- 4) Magi Tree – children up to age 12, shut-ins, utilities assistance, pantry families, children from Kelly and Turner Schools
- 5) Member of PIIN
- 6) Monthly Letter Writing and other activities of Social Justice and Peace Committee
- 7) Monthly Volunteer Team to Gr. Pgh. Community Food Bank in Duquesne – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat.
- 8) Covenant Member of Bread for the World
- 9) Financial Support for Orphanage and Health Clinic in Fondwa, Haiti through Partners in Progress
- 10) P/T Parish Social Service Minister
- 11) Dollar Energy Site – registered but not yet active
- 12) Senior Boxes – Last Friday of the month
- 13) Community Gardens
- 14) Member of Sanctuary Project – supporting youth in Wilkinsburg
- 15) Weekly Vigil – 7 – 8 PM on Tuesdays; available for families of victims of violence

#### St. Bede

Structure: Pastoral Council, Committees, Opportunities to Serve

- 1) St. Vincent de Paul – home visits, corporal works of mercy
- 2) Christmas Angel Tree – holiday gifts to those in need through area organizations
- 3) Martha's Ministry – assisting people during time of illness or crisis
- 4) Miryam's House – prepares and serves a monthly evening meal for homeless women
- 5) St. Fred's School – support for school in Uganda
- 6) Appalachian Mission – donates supplies for people in need in eastern Kentucky
- 7) Good Deeds Task Force – parishioners volunteer for time-limited projects in parish and other community volunteer programs
- 8) Knights of Columbus – part of the Pittsburgh/East End Council; involved in a variety of activities which serve the Church and community including such things as support for East End Community Ministries Food Bank, collecting and distributing children's books, and so much more.

#### Noted Similar Activities

- 1) Gifts at Christmas
- 2) Support for and Offering of Food Assistance Programs
- 3) Support for those who are poor – St. Vincent de Paul Society and P/T Social Minister
- 4) Outreach/support for broader community beyond parishioners
- 5) Other:

#### Unmet Needs

- 1) Extending/Expanding Food Bank
- 2) Skill Development So People Won't Need Pantries – like CEA (financial support – parish envelopes)

- 3) Whole Family Support – Community Empowerment
- 4) Full Time Social Minister
- 5) Affordable Housing – Stop Displacements
- 6) Tackle Racism and Anti-Immigrant Attitudes
- 7) Involvement of More Volunteers

Next Steps

- 1) Meet again in early 2018; possibly at St. Bede's with their participation
  - set up with chairs in circle
  - share notes of this meeting via email (not everyone provided their email addresses on sign-up sheet
  - bring notes of this meeting to next meeting
- 2) Volunteer Swap – coordinators in each parish help to arrange; for example, helping with each other's food pantries or community volunteer activities

8:10 If your social ministry were to grow, describe how?  
(Emerging or unaddressed needs?)

8:20 Next steps  
Was this helpful?  
What next step makes sense?

8:28 Closing song

Thanks to All for Participating!