

## **Social Ministries Committee Meeting Minutes**

### **Monday, November 9, 2015**

The November 9, 2015 meeting of the Social Ministries Committee opened with prayer at 6:35 p.m. Chair Jan Feterl introduced two new members: Daneen Curley and Kathleen Threadgold. Other members present were Jan & Kevin Feterl, Dave & Shirley Lueth, Gloria Paulin, Mary Christensen, Mary Lingberg, Lori Hemmer and Crystal Meek. Present members introduced themselves to the newer members and to our guest speaker.

Guest speaker Amy Carter, from the Children's Inn in Sioux Falls, gave an interesting and informative presentation. Briefly, the Children's Inn was started in a two-bedroom house in 1977 as a "safe home" for children and quickly expanded to a domestic violence shelter as well. At the time, it was one of ten such shelters in the whole country. After several moves and expansions it came to its current location. It is now a licensed group home for up to 12 children at a time for up to 60 days as well as a domestic abuse shelter for women and children. The shelter averages 38 guests per day. Over 900 guests were served in 2014. The Children's Inn provides other types of counseling and assistance for men and women across a five-county area helping with over 6,000 situations. Funding comes from the United Way, the City of Sioux Falls, five counties, fees from divorces, grants, donations and fundraising. There are 60 full and part-time employees as well as many volunteers. For additional information, go to [www.chssd.org/childrensinn](http://www.chssd.org/childrensinn).

Subcommittee reports followed:

**Funeral Subcommittee:** No funerals in the last month

**Prison Ministries Subcommittee:** Kevin Feterl reported that there are still three parishioners involved in the Man 2 Man program. He spoke about how much he has enjoyed and gained from his involvement.

**In-Home Visits Subcommittee:** Chair Gloria Paulin requested we change the name of this committee to "In-Home Ministries" to better fit the mission and activities. She reported they drove 115 miles total last month getting parishioners to and from medical visits. Several new drivers have been added.

**Parish Food & Diaper Pantry Subcommittee:** Jan reported for Chair Lori Gerads. Oct. was a busy month with 103 bags of groceries and 209 packages of diapers given away. This month the Religious Ed. classes from St. Michael Parish will be collecting for our pantry. We are currently collaborating with Feeding SD to obtain some of our pantry items at below-wholesale prices. Most of our new clients come to know us by word of mouth.

**The Banquet Subcommittee:** Jan reported for Chair Rick Fitzpatrick. Our parish served breakfast on Fri., Nov. 5th, serving 229 with 25 volunteers. Our parish is one of only two groups in the city/area to serve once every month.

**St. Francis House Subcommittee:** Chair Jan Feterl reported that the volunteer sheet fills up each month. She encouraged everyone to experience the chance to serve.

**St. Vincent de Paul Subcommittee:** No formal report; Jan stated she had received the names of several new volunteers for this committee.

**Right to Life Subcommittee:** Chairs Laurie Hemmer and Mary Christensen reported that the recent Baby Shower was very successful. They have asked that a picture of St. Kateri Tekakwitha be purchased and hung in the church entrance. This will be taken up with Fr. Tschakert.

**Catholic Advocacy Network Subcommittee (CAN):** Chair Laurie Hemmer reported no activity at this time.

**Distribution of Charitable Funds Subcommittee:** Chair Crystal Meek and Jan will review request for the funds allocated by Fr. Tschakert and the Parish Council.

**Habitat for Humanity Subcommittee:** Chair David Lueth reported on a painting project completed on a SF residence by him and three parish volunteers. Saturday, Nov. 21st will be another opportunity to serve. Contact Dave at 334-2737 to volunteer.

**Advent Angel Tree Subcommittee:** Chair Mary Lingberg is organizing this for this coming Advent season. Our recipients this year will be Sr. Miriam and the Mission at Marty SD, The Berahkah House (homeless veterans), The Bishop Dudley House, the Children's Inn and our Parish Food and Diaper Pantry.

**Adoration Sisters at the Cathedral Subcommittee:** No activity at this time. This committee needs a new chairperson.

Following the subcommittee reports, Jan asked that each committee member renew their membership in their respective subcommittees including chairpersons to insure that each individual wishes to continue with their particular commitment. She also emphasized that volunteering for any subcommittee does not require attendance at these meetings. She conveyed again Fr. Tschakert's desire to add no new committees but to hold a few "one time" events. One event proposed would be a Blood Drive held in conjunction with a Youth Pancake Breakfast. The upcoming Day of Reflection, Saturday, Nov. 21st, in preparation for the Year of Mercy was recommended and encouraged. See any recent bulletin for details.

**There will be no meeting of this committee in December.** Closed with prayer at 8:15 p.m.

Shirley Lueth, Secretary