

ST PERPETUA OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 3, 2015

Members Present: Pat Snyder (Acting Chair), Sandi Gritzer, Marj Ho, Kitty Locke, Anne Meyer, Treasurer, Ann Porcella, Mary Terjeson, Virginia LaFaille, Sharon Flower, Carol Weyer, Joan Liston, Terese Hagerty, Ann Diemer (Acting Secretary)

Welcome & Prayer: Pat Snyder welcomed the members and opened the meeting with the Our Father.

Speakers: Pat Snyder introduced our speaker, Christoph Nauer, to speak about the Families to Families program that the parish is supporting. Christoph began by explaining that the organization of the program is changing. It was recently being led by Catholic Charities of the East Bay. They would screen needy families and then reach out to parishes to support/partner with a needy family. Catholic Charities will no longer perform this service so the people involved in the program are considering how best to keep the program functioning. That said, the program concept is that families in relatively well off parishes will come together to “adopt” a needy family and work with them to meet their needs. The criteria for the needy families is that they must have children under the age of 18 and must not be substance abusers or have untreated mental health problems. They must also have English skills and be motivated to be self sustaining eventually, with some help from the Family to Family program. The program attempts to help with housing, jobs, health insurance, immigration status, etc..

It began informally at St. Isadore's in Danville. At some point Catholic Charities formalized it. Caroline Krantz worked with Catholic Charities to train teams of families wishing to participate in the program. She would then introduce the team to the pre-screened needy family. Effective the end of 2014, Caroline retired and the funding has not been continued for her position. Currently there are 19 congregations, including St. Perpetua, participating, each with one family with the exception of St. Isadore's where 3 families are being supported. So a total of 21 families are being assisted. There is a monthly meeting of all congregation participants to

compare notes and learn from each other. The concept is that the families assisting may have skills or connections that will aid the needy family. As an example, one family needed a smog check for a vehicle and a participating family was able to get them a free smog check. The program is now in transition looking for leadership. Some of the original persons from St. Isadore's may step up to provide the overall leadership for the program. Christoph will continue to monitor.

Correspondence and agency updates: A number of "thank you"s were received in the mail and passed around. There was also a special request from Michael Hazlewood, a Board member of Loaves and Fishes, to consider a contribution towards a capital campaign to raise approximately \$400,000 to purchase and remodel a building in Martinez which will house one of five dining rooms, an office and a culinary job training program and will be a community resource center. Approximately \$300,000 has been raised through local foundations but they are still in need of the remaining \$100,000. All felt we should consider this opportunity but wanted more information. Mary Terjeson will ask Michael and the Executive Director if one or both can attend next month Outreach Committee meeting.

Financial Report and Fund Distribution: The balance in the Outreach Account is \$3,814.83. If five donations of \$500 each are made that will total \$2500 and leave enough for Shelter Dinner and other miscellaneous needs as well as a little cushion should we decide to make a larger contribution to Loaves and Fishes after hearing from the speakers in March. The next five charities on the rotation sheet are Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Cambridge Community Center, Child Abuse Prevention Council, Options for Women, and We Care. Pat Snyder said that next fifth Sunday for special outreach collection is March 29th.

Committee Organizational Issues: Mary Terjeson had emailed the annual report earlier and had copies available for those who did not have a chance to review. There were a few missing items that the group filled in and then agreed the report was ready to be published in the bulletin. Thanks to Mary for pulling this together each year. Carol Weyer had emailed the current address list and also had copies available. Linda Kelly should be removed. Otherwise listing looked correct as nothing has changed from last issued. Thanks to Carol for keeping this up. Finally, Pat Snyder asked for volunteers to be next chair person and Mary Terjeson agreed to take March

through September.

Food Basket: The next monthly food basket collection is February 14/15 and will be for St. Vincent de Paul. Items solicited are pasta and sauces. The January collection for Monument Crisis Center had a relatively low turnout, with only 25 bags/200 pounds collected. The annual food drive list went out with previous bulletin but for those who may have missed that Sunday it is also posted on website and Carol will make some copies to be placed in church vestibule for those who are interested.

Blue Barrel: The dates for the next Blue Barrel will be after Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, with publicity Feb. 21/22 and collections Feb 28/March 1 and March 7/8. Then the next weekend, March 14/15, will be March food drive. Marj Ho called previously provided a list of needs from Bay Area Crisis Nursery. We will focus on a limited number of items including the following: Enfamil with Iron, Aveeno Lotion and body wash unscented, small mesh laundry bags and babywipes.

Shoes That Fit: Marj Ho noted a correction to January minutes that she had already purchased at the time of the meeting 6 pairs of shoes that did not come back and there was no contact information to follow up. Subsequently, some of these shoes have shown up and Marj will hold on to them to see if they can be matched with future requests. If not, at end of school year, she will donate them to needy child or charity. Marj is expecting another list of children needing shoes in the next month or so.

Publicity: Pat Snyder noted again that it was so nice to have Sandi here to get her bulletin information as we went along.

Shelter Dinner: Ann Diemer noted that the St Perpetua school would be taking care of dinners, including cooking, transporting and serving, in February and March.

Closing Prayer: The Committee members joined in saying the Hail Mary.

Next Meeting: March 3, 2015, Rotating Chairperson: Mary Terjeson. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.