

# ST PERPETUA OUTREACH COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 6, 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, Ann Diemer (Acting Secretary)

**Welcome & Prayer:** Pat Snyder welcomed the members and opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Speakers:** Pat Snyder introduced our speaker, Michelle Martinez Kilty from SPRED (Special Religious Education). Michelle very eloquently described the religious education program that is designed for individuals with learning disabilities. The participants are called "friends" and the goal is to have a one on one relationship with one catechist for each friend. The program was developed in Chicago in the 1960's and brought to Oakland in the 1980's. It is now present in nine countries. The program has been developed to provide an understanding of Christianity to those with learning disabilities by reaching them at their level. Within the Oakland Diocese there are 16 SPRED Parish Centers serving people from 45 out of the 82 parishes. Financial contributions are needed for program expenses. Also, catechists are always needed. Currently there are more than 30 friends on the waiting list for a catechist. The group had some questions for Michelle and then thanked her for her presentation. Christoph will be speaking at the February meeting regarding the Family to Family program.

**Correspondence and agency updates:** A number of "thank yous" were received in the mail and passed around including from: Anka, Winter Nights, Stand, Food Bank, Foster Family Network and Friendly Manor.

**Financial Report and Fund Distribution:** The balance in the Outreach Account is \$3,499.90. If six donations of \$500 are made that will leave enough for Shelter Dinner and other miscellaneous needs. The group discussed giving a \$500 donation to SPRED to acknowledge the night's speaker. Ann Porcella thought that a once per year donation would be appropriate for SPRED. Anne Meyer presented a summary of 2014 donations and noted that there were five charities that received less than all the others in 2014 (\$1500 as compared to \$2000 or more). Ann Diemer suggested that each of these five charities be given \$500 to 'catch them up' and the usual rotation resumed next meeting. After some discussion, the group concurred. The five charities in addition to SPRED receiving donations will be: Food Pantry SVDP, Monument Crisis Center, CCIC, Friendly Manor and Senior Outreach Services. Pat Snyder said that next fifth Sunday for special outreach collection is March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Food Drive/Anka Sock Followup:** Kitty and Virginia reported that there were 308 bags of food collected over the two weekend food drive, with about half collected each weekend. Pat Snyder reported that over 300

overstuffed bags were prepared for Project Hope. Bags included socks, toiletries and notes from the children preparing the bags and candy. Pat reported that Anka staff note they are seeing more children in the homeless encampments.

**Food Basket:** The next monthly food basket collection is this coming weekend, January 10/11 and will be for Monument Crisis Center. Requested item is hearty soups. This concluded the list issues last year. Carol Weyer will prepare a new 12 month listing of food basket drives and coordinate getting it in the Parish bulletin before the February food drive.

**Blue Barrel:** The dates for the next Blue Barrel will be after Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, with publicity Feb. 21/22 and collections Feb28/March 1 and March 7/8. Then the next weekend, March14/15, will be a food drive. Marj Ho called Crisis Nursery for their needs. They had a long list but when asked to focus on a limited number of items suggested the following: Enfamil with Iron, Aveeno Lotion and body wash unscented, Dove body wash, small mesh laundry bags and baby wipes.

**Shoes That Fit:** Marj Ho said that for the first time she had 6 pairs of shoes that did not come back and there was no contact information to follow up. She will purchase the shoes with Outreach funds and all will assist with trying to be sure those taking cards at masses will in their contact information.

**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 January dinner was on New Year's Day and that Monica Chappel and her family and friends took care of the entire thing.

**Closing Prayer:** The Committee members joined in saying the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Meeting:** February 3, 2015, Rotating Chairperson: Pat Snyder. At February meeting will be looking for volunteers for next chairperson. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.