

## **MINUTES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING 2017 02 14**

### **PRESENT:**

L. McKenzie, S. Scollard, C. Scollard, Sr. Maria, C. Gauthier, J. McDermott, T. Ford, T. Johnston

Led by Sister Maria, the meeting began with a prayer and shared reflections on the many ways we have experienced God's love in our lives.

### **HOUSING STABILITY BANK (THAW):**

Larry has been in touch with St. Michael's St. Vincent de Paul Society to coordinate a collection on behalf of the Housing Stability Bank program, which is the program that has replaced the Heat and Warmth (THAW) program.

### **BREAKFAST PROGRAM:**

Charles reported that \$2000 was donated from the proceeds of the parish bazaar to support the breakfast program. Charles spoke to Gabe Pizzuti, the Principal at St. Michael's school, as to needs for the remainder of the school year. At present the program should have enough supplies to last until the beginning of April. Charles is arranging for a parish food collection for the weekend of March 25th-26th in support of the breakfast program.

### **GROWING CHEFS:**

Mary Ann forwarded an update on the Growing Chefs program. It will be at St. Michael's School on Monday March 27th and Tuesday March 28th. If anybody wants to volunteer to assist on those days classes are at 10:45 am, 1 pm and 2:30 pm on the 27th, and 9, 10:45, and 1:15 pm on the 28th.

### **REFUGEE COMMITTEE:**

The annual euchre tournament in support of the refugee committee will be held on February 18th, from 2-8 pm. Volunteers are being requested to help out. Students will be acting as servers, but help is needed in plating the meals. Teresa Johnston said she can help out, as can Mary Ann. Charles and Suzanne will look after putting up the decorations and removing them.

## **NEW DAY and YOU ARE NOT ALONE:**

Cathie has been nominated for the CWL Social Justice award for the work she has done re mental health through New Day and You Are Not Alone.

All youth ministers are being invited to a meeting at St. Michael's in March, and with the help of medical professionals, information regarding resources available to help young people with mental health issues will be made available.

## **DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE:**

James attended a diocesan workshop in preparation for Share Lent. He was surprised by the number of different approaches to the campaign taken by different parishes. He expressed his belief, with which our committee concurred, that prior education is essential for a successful campaign.

The theme of this year's campaign, celebrating 50 years of Share Lent, is "Women at the Heart of Change". In keeping with this theme James would like to recruit women speakers from the parish to speak at Mass during Lent. Ideally this would be the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday, and the two Sundays prior to the Share Lent collection on April 2nd. If approval is received for this, the Sunday before Lent begins Cathie will speak at the 10:30 Mass, Teresa Ford will speak at the 8:30 Mass, and Sr. Maria will speak at the 5 pm Mass.

Share Lent calendars will be available in the bulletin the weekend of Feb. 25-26.

## **INCOME DISPARITY:**

Larry presented the committee with a well researched paper on many aspects of income disparity both globally and locally. This led to a lengthy discussion of next steps that can be done by our committee to address the issues raised by income disparity. There was general agreement that no matter what action is taken the stakeholders must be involved. They must feel that there is a possibility that things can change for the better. NELCE was mentioned as an organization that has been successful at getting people to work together as community in addressing poverty issues in northeast London.

Larry will contact representatives from the "15 and Fairness" organization, which is very concerned with issues related to income disparity, to speak at our next meeting. The leadership of St. Michael's CWL, Knights of Columbus, and St. Vincent de Paul Society will also be invited. Charles will see if we can book a larger room for the meeting.

## **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be on March 14th. Sr. Maria will chair the meeting as well as prepare the prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.