

ST. JEROME SOCIAL CONCERNS MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2010

Present: Annette Maiberger, Father David, Jennifer Prescott, Dan Loch, Rebecca Sweeney, Kathy Coyne, Sheila Reitano, Tara Whalen.

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m., with a prayer offered by Barbara.

RECENT PROJECTS:

Monthly Food Drive -- Rebecca reported that January's Food Drive was very successful, bringing in 1,445 food items and the Milk Fund's tally of \$201.50. The REACH 6th grade volunteers helped a great deal with the sorting. The next few food drives will take place on : Feb. 21, March 21 (the huge "shop the list" Lenten Food Drive), April 25, and May 23.

Cell Phone Update -- The cell phone collection box remains in the hallway for ongoing donations.

Magazines for Norwalk Hospital -- Barbara will ask Kathy J. her opinion for opening an ongoing collection for gently-used magazines for patients at Norwalk Hospital.

Preschool and Elementary School-age book collection -- The book collection box remains in the hallway for ongoing donations. The children of families who come to CCA's Food Pantry are always delighted to take home books.

IDEAS FOR PROJECTS FOR 2010:

Valentines for Marines -- The collection box in the hallway had very few donated valentines. Discussion ensued as to whether or not REACH students could write cards, not valentines, for a future collection. Kathy C. will look into this. Also -- an idea was proposed for children to write cards during the Pancake Breakfast on Feb. 14.

Lenten Cross Ideas -- Dan and Florence are working on setting up our parish Lenten Cross, to begin on Ash Wed. The parish is invited to take one tag (from the "categories" of Prayer Request, Donation, Acts of Kindness, Acts of Prayer, and 40 Ideas for Lent) and complete the action on the tag. The Committee brainstormed some ideas for tag requests -- as in the past , small frying pans, soup bowls, forks, and spoons for the CCA Pantry Housewares collection.

Paper-Shredding Program/Earth Day Program -- The consensus of the Committee is that the cost of renting the shredder (\$350) is too much to spend for a project that would possibly not interest a big group of people. Rebecca offered to contact the director at Earthplace in Westport to see if they are sponsoring such a program in the spring. We need to thank Francie Mansager for looking into this environmentally-friendly project.

Fodor Farm Garden Plots -- Barbara is seeking interested gardeners to sign up to volunteer to take turns tending the gardens this summer. She will post signs and advertise as Spring arrives.

NEW BUSINESS:

Used Bike Collection -- Father David has contacted the CT Bike Project program, which collects used bikes in working order for free distribution to the poor. Father set April 17 as a date for a collection here at St. Jerome's. We will begin promoting this project in March.

Bulletin Board Ideas: -- We need to spruce up our bulletin boards in the hallway. Barbara offered to collect some project ideas information to post. Rebecca will work on a food drive chart to display how each month's collection turns out. Also, it would be good to post a brochure from CCA, NES, and the Mid-Fairfield AIDS Project, where our food drive donations are delivered.

Where to Donate to Haiti -- A brief discussion ensued, and many members promised to look into suggested agencies to discuss for next month's meeting. Father David shared that our in-pew collection totaled \$3,700.

Directory of Parishioners' Trades -- Several months ago, there was an idea for publishing a handbook with the names of parishioners who work in trades that could stir up business for parishioners during this difficult economic time. We may want to consider pushing that project along.

Dates for upcoming meetings: 3/22, 4/26, 5/24.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Sweeney