

**ST. JEROME SOCIAL CONCERNS MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 28, 2011**

**Present:** Father David, Dan Loch, Annette Maiberger, Kathy Jimenez, Georgia Smith, Barbara Bagnato, Rebecca Sweeney, Melanie Blanco.

The meeting began at 7:03 p.m. with a prayer offered by Barbara.

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Everyone gave rave reviews to last month's viewing of Julie Coyne's newest Education and Hope DVD. Barbara will compose a bulletin/pulpit announcement to direct parishioners to the website link.

**ONGOING PROJECTS**

**Food Drive/Milk Fund Collection:** The February food drive brought in 1,016 food items and the milk fund total was \$236. Rebecca will advertise the March 19-20 Special Lenten Food Drive over two weekends instead of the traditional one, in order to provide the "shop the list" list to as many parishioners as possible.

**Cell Phone Update:** Kathy reported that cell phones continue to be dropped off. To date, the collection total is: 273 phones with chargers, and 64 phones without chargers.

**Community Advocate Meeting:** Dan reported that we have seven representatives ready to take the training to initiate our participation in Pat Speer's coalition of churches, synagogues, and mosques that address regional issues. Training will span 4 sessions in late March and early April, and address determining needs; research and study of issues; and taking action. (E.g., one recent issue is the denial of in-state tuition fees at State colleges for immigrants living in CT).

**Committees that fall under Social Concerns:** In an effort to reach out to the groups that fall under our umbrella, Barbara contacted Jeanne Tarrant to see if we can support the Widows and Widowers Support Group in any way. Jeanne explained that there is only the social part of Widows and Widowers in operation now. The group meets for lunch once/month. Instead of leading a monthly support group, Jeanne works to help elderly widows on a One-to-one basis with shopping, bill-paying, arranging transportation, visiting those living at Waveny, The Greens, or homebound. Jeanne asked if anyone would be interested in helping. We discussed the idea of writing a "help wanted" ad for the Bulletin.

**COMPLETED PROJECTS**

**2011 Point-in-Time Count:** Barbara reported that Christi Pope, CCA Director, was the contact person for volunteers to help with Norwalk's participation in the 1/26/11 Point-in-Time Count, a one-day count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless families and individuals. [Results of the count are expected by late April-early May].

**NEW BUSINESS**

**March 12 Appreciation Luncheon for Carole Antonetz and Manna House Volunteers:** An informal thank-you lunch will honor outgoing Director of Open Door Shelter, Carole Antonetz, and our crew of parishioners who serve lunch at Manna House the fourth Thursday of each month. Barbara reported that 18 guests have confirmed, to-date. We are using the back classroom off the Parish Hall for an 11:30 a.m. --1:30 p.m. luncheon. Committee members are offering potluck dishes.

**March 26-April 3 Dress For Success Clothing Drive:** Melanie has offered to pick up and deliver any collected clothing. Barbara will write up a bulletin insert detailing the specifics of donations -- new or nearly new women's "interview appropriate" clothing, dry-cleaned and brought in on hangers.

**April 22 Earth Day:** Earth Day falls on Good Friday this year. To recognize Earth Day, a suggestion was made that we collect hand-outs re: recycling tips, etc., for parishioners to pick up, in early May.

**May -- Collection for Troops:** Barbara spoke with Joanne Romano, who confirmed that the Sons of Italy would be sponsoring another collection for troops, slated for Memorial Day. Jennifer Prescott emailed Barbara with her offer to contact Mrs. Breisler from our parish, whose husband, John, was recently deployed to Afghanistan, and organize a collection to go directly to his platoon/group. Everyone thought this is a great idea.

**May -- Baby Layette Collection in Honor of Ruth Farrington:** Barbara spoke with Marge Gallivan, of the Women's Guild, and she confirmed that they are planning this, so we will be able to support it.

**June -- Sock and Underwear Collection for Shelter:** to be planned.

**Collection for Haiti:** also to be investigated -- is Nathan Hale still running a collection?

**Update:** CCA's Food Pantry has been granted an arrangement to pay rent on a month-to-month basis to NEON, until CCA can find an affordable and local new "home".

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting is Monday, March 28, at 7 p.m.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Sweeney