

## ST. JEROME SOCIAL CONCERNS MEETING MINUTES

April 25, 2011

**Present:** Dan Loch, Annette Maiberger, Kathy Jimenez, Georgia Smith, Barbara Bagnato, Rebecca Sweeney, Melanie Blanco, Jennifer Prescott, Sandy Billings, Honey Secchi, Maureen Morrissey.

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

### WELCOME & INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Everyone read the 3-28-11 Minutes. No corrections or changes were made. Barbara shared Father David's suggested dates for our June "Appreciation Dinner" at the Rectory -- June 14 or 15.

### ONGOING PROJECTS

**Food Drive/Milk Fund Collection:** Rebecca reported that the April Food Drive total was 940 items. The Milk Fund total was \$272, which is high. REACH Grade 4 students helped to sort the items. For May, CCA is requesting paper products (diapers of all sizes, paper towels, toilet paper) as the May Postal Service food drive brings in a good amount of food, and paper products are often requested.

To continue to seek a food drive committee, Rebecca passed around a sign-up sheet for the May - August food drives. Sheila signed up for May, and Kathy J., for July. Also, Nancy Wagner emailed her availability for Sept., and Annette, for November. Rebecca has a "generic" list of tasks needed to run a food drive, and will be totally available to guide these great volunteers through the process.

**Cell Phone Update:** Kathy reported that to date, the collection total is: 277 phones with chargers, and 64 phones without chargers. Barbara will put a reminder in the Bulletin in case parishioners acquire new phones for all the June events and have old ones to donate.

**Connecticut Sponsoring Committee (CSC) Update:** Dan reported 7 St. Jerome volunteers and members of Temple Shalom in Westport have been receiving training this month on how to organize both house meetings and one on one meetings with parishioners in order to identify issues that might be of concern to CSC. (St. Jerome has become part of CSC, a group of 30 interdenominational congregations between Norwalk and New Haven whose mission is to engage social change). Examples of issues that CSC may want to focus research and action on: denial of in-state college tuition fees to undocumented high school graduates; high cost of CT health care; banking policies, loans and mortgages.

### COMPLETED PROJECTS

**March 26-April 3 Dress For Success Clothing Drive:** Melanie reported that the drive was very successful. She delivered a total of 87 items including 3-piece suits, shoes, stockings, and jewelry.

**Lenten Cross Donations:** Dan thanked Barbara for delivering donations to CCA and Malta House. Annette offered to deliver donations to Americares in Stamford.

**UPCOMING PROJECTS**

**April 22 Earth Day:** Earth Day fell 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, tba. Members were asked to bring in any hand-outs. Annette suggested some information on the dangers of lawn chemicals.

**May -- Collection for Troops:** Jennifer will finalize a list of needed items (e.g., granola bars, sugarless gum, drink mixes) for a collection planned to send to a St. Jerome parishioner's unit stationed in the Middle East. Barbara offered to create a flyer announcing the collection, to take place May 7 - 22.

**May/June -- 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.

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

**The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.**

**The next meeting is Monday, May 23, at 7 p.m.**

Sincerely,

Rebecca Sweeney