

**Holy Family Parish Social Ministry Committee
November 4, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Jack Braun, Betsy Norcia, Lisa Sutton, Caryl Hartjes CSA, S. Ruth Ann Baudry, Mary Gorske and Ruth Olig.

Welcome: We welcomed Lisa Sutton, our Pro-Life Committee Representative and Betsy Norcia, one of the SVdP Society officers. We each introduced ourselves and stated our ministry roles within Social Ministry.

Formation time with Prayer-Betsy Norcia, Lisa Sutton and Jack Braun: Our focus was on the sanctity of life from the inception of life to its final moment. The human person's most fundamental right is the right to life. The application of Gospel values to real situations is the essential work of the Christian community. Therefore, Catholics should eagerly involve themselves as advocates for the weak and marginalized by addressing conditions that demean human dignity and threaten human rights. It is our responsibility to promote respect for the human person at all stages of life by practicing a consistent life ethic. Materials provided were reading John 6:51-58, followed by intercessions from the USCCB Pro-Life website and a 1995 statement on Political Responsibility.

Reflection: What does a consistent life ethic mean to you? How do your ministry efforts reflect this? Our Santa Rosa Sister Parish relationship provides us the opportunity to see how our brothers and sisters in Rosita, Nicaragua live in extreme poverty. Many die from preventable diseases. Our Voices for Justice Committee works for legislative advocacy to help the poor and vulnerable. Many women have an abortion because of a financial struggle. How can we in our ministries work to alleviate some of the disparities in these families? Through our Outreach Committee, direct service ranks high on the list of 4 areas that are funded; followed by education, empowerment and advocacy. Through education, advocacy, prayer and forgiveness, Pro-Life Committee works for the rights of the unborn and the spiritual healing of woman who had an abortion and in educating people on the alternatives to adoption.

Special Reports:

Direct Service and Outreach

Outreach/Jack Braun: The Outreach Committee receives grant requests and applications from local, national and international organizations. The monies allocated for Outreach Funds comes from ½ of 1% of parish giving. (\$14,000 approx). Approximately one-half is dispersed to local organizations. A breakdown of how the grants are awarded is shared with the Social Ministry Committee and Parish Council. We are excited to have two new members, Pat Feudner and Joyce Gau, join the Outreach committee.

St. Vincent de Paul/Betsy Norcia: Jean White is the new President of the HF Conference. SVdP has envisioned and has advocated for a warming shelter in FdL and is pleased that joint efforts are being made to establish one. Betsy says she became aware of the need for assistance to the poor in the FdL area after she joined SVdP. In just one month, 200 visits were made by SVdP home visitors. A special event celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Society in Fond du Lac County was held in Sept. at the KC Hall and was well attended. The Lay Witnessing weekend inspired 5 parishioners to join SVdP. Parish members are encouraged to donate items and purchase merchandise from the store. Donations from the Thanksgiving envelopes and the

Thanksgiving Day Mass collections and the two Seibel Family Christmas Concerts will go to SVdP. The dates of the concerts are Friday, Dec. 18 and Sunday, Dec. 20. Both will be held in HF church with a social to follow.

Family, Work & Citizenship-

Pro-Life/Lisa Sutton: The Pro-Life Committee has scheduled a number of events for 2010. Speaker Vickie Thorn will give a presentation on the 17th and 18th of April. On Wednesday, Jan. 20th, a Pro-Life Prayer Service, entitled “Dignity of Life” will be held at St. Mary Church, with student participation. The Holy Hour For Life Prayer Service will be held on Thursday, Jan. 21st at the SH site at 7:00pm. Ministry handouts and displays will be available following the service. The annual Ecumenical Right to Life Prayer Service, sponsored by the FdL Chapter of WI. Right to Life, will take place on Sunday, Jan. 24th at 3:00 pm at SH. An informational and educational seminar for all Pro-Life organizations from our community is being planned for 2010.

Information sharing/Review:

Meeting the need for a warming shelter: SVdP identified the need of a warming shelter in FdL. The need was shared with Lindee Kimball, Executive Director of Solutions Center. She agreed with the need to establish a temporary/warming shelter for some of their clients, preferably in the downtown area. Together they met with the Brad Vivoda, Executive Director of the Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley. Following the meeting, Lindee received approval from the Solutions Center Board to create a warming shelter. Several sites for a warming shelter were researched with the basement at St. Joseph Church basement identified as a possible site. Although further discussions and planning are necessary, our Pastors have approved use of St. Joseph Church for a warming shelter. Jack distributed the memo from the HF clergy and staff that was emailed on Oct. 30 to the Parish Council members and the St. Mary Springs Academy Board members, requesting approval of the use of St. Joseph Church basement for a Solutions Center warming shelter.

A Holy Hour for All Life: Held on Thursday, Jan. 21st at 7:00pm in SH Church, the eve of the national Day of Prayer and Penance marking the January 22nd Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision. The Holy Hour is to be held simultaneously in every parish across the country. The USCCB has initiated this service and invites us to pray for a wide variety of issues that involve a consistent life ethic. In an effort to enhance that request and to promote our SM efforts, each committee is asked to be represented in the vestibule following the service. A sub-committee was formed to handle the logistics.

Adult Formation Sessions: Held on the 4th Sun. of the month at Holy Family site from 9:15-10:00am from January-April. A subcommittee will help create informational materials and a flier for our Sunday, Feb. 21st session called “Intro to Catholic Social Teaching & JustFaith”.

“Walking In Their Shoes” series: It was suggested that a local member of the National Pax Christi speak about their efforts on nuclear disarmament.

Roundtable:

Caryl Hartjes, CSA/JustFaith: Last May, past JF graduates welcomed and congratulated the participants of the recently completed JF program at their annual potluck luncheon. There are 6 people participating in the current program entitled “Engaging Spirituality”.

Betsy Norcia/SVdP: Betsy commented on the JustMatters session on “Crossing Borders-Immigration”. People have been moving from one country to another since the Bible. Our ancestors were immigrants; some of us are recent immigrants. They should be welcomed not ignored.

CSA/S. Ruth Ann: The Sisters have formed visioning circles of sisters and lay-associates.
Hmong Community/S. Ruth Ann: It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain priest availability as Fr. Paul Fliss now assigned to a parish.

Voices for Justice/Mary Gorske: Mary attended a training session and explained the USCCB has approved the campaign and postcards. Educational materials are not yet available. An Immigration Reform postcard campaign will take place in January or February.

Fair Trade/Jack: Alternative Gift/Fair Trade Event will be on Dec 5, 5:00-6:30pm and on Dec. 6 from 9:00am-12:15pm in the HF hall.

CHOSEN/Jack: The Youth Service Team participating in the Adopt-A-Highway Program. Responsibilities includes cleanup 3 times a year. The first event was in October. The next one will be a Saturday in spring as weather permits. This responsibility includes the area on Cty Hwy T and W surrounding Holy Family site.

Upcoming Events – in additional to those reported in committee reports:

Food Drive - Nov. 7 & 8 at all sites, **Leaf Raking** - Nov. 7 & 14, **Christmas Giving Trees** - 3 weekends from Nov. 22/23 through Dec. 5/6., **Thanksgiving Eve Service** - Nov. 25 at St. Paul's Cathedral

Closing Prayer: Lisa read the concluding prayer of Pope John Paul II's encyclical "The Gospel of Life".

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Olig

Next Meeting: Wednesday Feb. 3, 7:00 pm in the Holy Family Library/Resource Room

Prayer and Formation:

Advocacy - Voices for Justice

Direct Service and Outreach – CHOSEN, Christ's Helpers Offering
Service to Everyone in Need