

St. Clare's Social Concerns Meeting of November 9, 2017

Pizza served for those arriving early.

Opening Prayer - John [Raniseski](#) did the opening prayer as Martin wasn't able to attend. Prayers needed for Martin who is dealing with a difficult work issue out of town.

New people who given the opportunity to introduce themselves and 2 people spoke.

Old Business -

a. **Laundry Love** - One woman spoke about helping at this ministry the last time. It was a bit overwhelming when it got crowded, but the workers do an excellent job and relate well to the guests. Each client is allowed three loads of wash and 2 helpers go around with buckets of coin to put in the machines. Snacks are available, children often come too. It costs up to \$800 a month to fund and funding is becoming an issue. Possibility of opening another laundromat on Douglas for the homeless, but might be wisest for our group to just support the one currently in operation by volunteering workers there and perhaps donating \$100 per month for their operating expenses.

b. **Loaves and Fishes** - Going well due to the many volunteers. Clients really seem to appreciate the program. If you are signed up for the December session, please honor this commitment (also same day as Christmas distribution, but we don't want to leave Loaves and Fishes short)

c. **Coats, socks, jackets** - Lots of women's were donated. Martin's wife and another [lady](#) volunteered to organize and sort the storage container. Bill was able to buy many men's and children's jackets from local thrift stores for a good price. Donated children's clothes will also be given out at the Thanksgiving distribution.

d. **Registration by the numbers** - 147 and a big thanks to all those who helped with the registrations. Robles School District [sent nine families over](#) to register. They also are needing more clothes for their clothes closet as have used up the past donations.

New Business -

a. **Donations given out last month** - 2 carloads to Robles, several bags to Sierra College Guardian Scholars program, several bags of warm clothes for the jail, 2 trips to the river, normal ongoing donations to WWJD, 25 sleeping bags given out, a woman and child living in a car until Wednesday when they'll be moving into a dwelling were given some needed help.

b. We need your help!! Bill is having some serious mobility problems due to needed ankle surgery and can't do a lot of standing, moving items etc. and will be needing lots of our help. His surgery won't be until after the holidays.

c. **Thanksgiving Distribution on Saturday, November 18th.** - **One big way to help will be to show up at 7 a.m. on Saturday, November 18th. to help set up everything in the Morris Center for the Thanksgiving Basket distribution. This is the earliest we can get into the Morris Center due to being used for other activities before that. The Knights of Columbus will also be helping and will continue**

with the turkey distribution, but the entire operation this year will be held in the Morris Center. The new parking lot will make access easier too.

The rollup door will be used for turkey distribution, there will be 3 aisles set up with the clothing.

Distribution will be from 9 - 11 a.m.

d. **Moving gifts from the pod to the Morris Center - Wednesday, December 20th. at 9 a.m.** - Help needed and some heavy lifting of some items. Knights of Columbus will also be asked to help with this.

e. **Gift wrapping - Thursday, December 21st. at 9 a.m.** - Help needed for wrapping and moving of the gifts. This usually takes less than a couple of hours.

f. **Christmas Distribution - Saturday, December 23rd.** If you've already signed up for Loaves and Fishes on that day, please keep that commitment.

g. **Teddy bears, new pod, Santa** - have about 130 bears and other stuffed animals from Toys for Tots. **George from the** Knights of Columbus will be Santa and children talking with Santa will each receive a stuffed animal.

Reports -

a. **Gathering Inn -2nd. Monday of each month with Tuesday morning early breakfast** - ICF will be the sponsoring group this month. No additional help needed at this point, but people can visit on the evening of the program. Other groups possibly interested in providing the meal one month (usually around 70 people) should contact Martin. Breakfast program continues to be a big success and could use more helpers. The time is early - 5:30 a.m. but is quite short. A new menu of French toast and pancakes is being developed for some months.

b. **North Highlands Christian Food Ministry** - Margaret Small - Margaret reports a great thanks and appreciation for all of the help given by our parish. Appreciated all of the donated socks, but can always use more as an ongoing need. They would like some stuffed animals, but have no storage so can't keep many. 634 clients were served last month so the numbers of help given are going up despite the difficulties of the new location. They are negotiating ways to also have meat available for clients. **A big new need is someone to take care of the homeless desk on Mondays. It uses a simple software program and the volunteer would be working directly with the homeless population. It is a bit of a drive as the new large building is located on Watt Ave.**

c. **What Would Jesus Do? - Fran McMahon - Mondays at 7 a.m.** sandwiches are made in the Morris Center and the distribution is from **8-9 a.m.** at Abundant Life Church. Volunteers becoming quite familiar with the clientele so try to guide them, listen, etc. as well as providing food, hygiene items, clothes etc. Leftover Halloween candy is really enjoyed by the clients so still not too late to donate some of that. **NEED:** socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste.

d. **StVdP** - Bill shared what a HUGE help and blessing this group to our group and our parish.

e. **Jail Ministry, Sierra College Foster Kids, Immigrant Training, Get on the Bus Prison Visit Program** -

- **Jails** - two trips of many bags of warm weather clothes and some shoes were delivered to the jail in Auburn

- **Sierra College Foster Kids program** - two recent trips with a large amount of good clothes, jackets, shoes, hygiene items, pantry foods, diapers, baby formula were delivered and very appreciated. Still working to get Bernadine F. connected with the college for possibly hosting students for meals over the holidays.
- **Immigrant Training** - this is a new program with the county to help train volunteers to assist immigrants. The first informational meeting will be on November 27th. in the evening at St. Rose of Lima in Roseville and will last 2 hours. Part two will take place in December. Interested people can contact Frida Callejas at (916) 208-3349 or Frida@ppoft.org.
- **Get on the Bus Prison Visit Program** - program with volunteers accompanying groups of youngsters to visit parents in prison. There will be a

volunteer training program on **Saturday, January 27, 2018** at St. John the Evangelist Church at 5751 Locust Ave. in Carmichael from 10 a.m.- 2:30. Lunch to be provided. If interested please RSVP to Jackelin Aguilar at jackelin@getonthebus.us or call her at (530) 844- 8750

Other-

- **November 21st. around 9:00 a.m.(Tuesday before Thanksgiving)** - people are needed to help put up the trees and tags in the church. Carol is

in charge of this program and has some concerns about stealing which has happened in the past. May ask people assisting with getting signups for the backpack program (replaces the former big holiday stuffed stockings) to stay in the narthex during the entire mass, not just before and after as in previous years.

- **Backpack program will begin on the vigil mass of November 25.** Interested people will sign up and take a backpack and a list of items to buy for the

packs and then **returned by December 17th**. Volunteers will be needed to sign out the packs and then collect them when returned. This will be done before and after the weekend masses.

- **Tree tags** - volunteers will be needed to stay by the trees and answer questions and monitor the area. This year gifts being returned during the week may be dropped off at the parish office due to security reasons.
- **Sign Up Genius** - Larry will prepare signups with this program for both volunteers for the ornament tree monitoring and the backpack program.
- **Toys for Tots** will be providing many additional toys to supplement what people in the parish donate.

Bill led the closing prayer.

Next meeting : Thursday, December 14th. at 6:30

Submitted by Carole Chicoine