

Saint Clare Social Concern Meeting Notes from Thursday January 11, 2018

- **Opening Prayer** - Martin White

Pizza was kindly provided to all!

- Bill started meeting with a big thank you for all of the wonderful help with the Thanksgiving baskets and the Christmas gift and food distribution.

- **Old Business**

A. **Get On the Bus** - information passed on an upcoming opportunity. Interested people to call [is on the information sheet that Bill passed out](#). We have volunteered to provide sandwiches again for when the bus stops nearby on the way to southern California as last year. More information later.

This is the program that takes families to visit with incarcerated parents. Meeting place is: St. John the Evangelist at 5751 Locust Ave. Carmichael on [January 27th from 10:00-2:30](#) with provided lunch.

B. **Christmas Wrap Up** - 315 backpacks were made [and collected from our Christmas Drive](#) (North Highlands 50, Teen Challenge 28, river people 50, Gathering Inn 70, Well Spring 59, some still left over)

1. 150 families were served
2. Stuffed animals - 500 received from Toys for Tots, 200 given out at our Christmas event with George serving as a great Santa, Kaiser and Sutter emergency hospitals , Well Spring Drop in Center [were all given about 100 each](#). [Wellspring gives theirs out each feast day of Saint Francis to each guest](#). A bike, microwave and some other items were also donated to the Well Spring Center.
3. Left over toys and gifts - most to Robla School District and Olivehurst, Excel program
4. **What worked well and ideas for improvements for next year:**

What Worked Well - Santa, gift giving went smoothly, [Michele Wiegand](#), who organizes and checks in the gifts is very efficient and helpful...even replaces any gifts which aren't appropriate, Knights and teen volunteers were great and there were lots of teens present, Santa hats on volunteers added a festive touch. Paul Mendoza at St. Lawrence did a wonderful job there and is willing to do it again next year.

Possible Improvements - Add a note to sign ups to "Please don't show up before nine. Too many early arrivals and no way to keep out of the cold. We could issue numbers but this could

cause additional problems. Somehow communicate to the teens when the families are large. Near the end, the lasagnas were defrosting and causing bags to tear etc. We may want to move Santa to the front. At the beginning of the day, there was a door backup but this was solved by providing a door person.

Thanksgiving Give Aways - size the coats beforehand, possibly use coat racks for hanging items, perhaps teens could make racks from PVC pipes, hangers would need to be collected or purchased, provide bags for clients to put clothing items.

C. **Gathering Inn Dinners** - (Martin) 2nd. Monday of each month with an occasional extra Monday added. **This Monday the 15th. will be an additional Monday and anyone wishing to visit, help, bring food etc are asked to please call MARTIN WHITE AT (916) 799- 2693 first. Time would be 5:30 p.m.** Usually around 70 people served including many children. Andrea and Dan coordinated the last event. All went well and there was no leftover food. Lots of desserts. Using "Sign Up Genius" worked well and was easy to do. "Shopping" is done after eating...donated clothing etc. Breakfast crew continues to provide hearty breakfasts with pancakes and other items. Bayside Church called and had heard good reports so wanted to visit, and did bringing gift bags and a guitar so they could sing Christmas Carols with the group. Beautiful placemats were made by Faith Formation students. Additional drinks would be good to have for the evening meal.

- **New Business:**

A. **Faith Formation** - Agnes is in charge of the program of 700+ and each month the students take on a special project around the Corporal Works of Mercy. Currently are collecting new PJ's for children. The program is in need of helpers in the K-7 classrooms on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 4-5 or 5:30 - 6:30. There is a great need for substitutes and also regular teachers or classroom helpers. Helpers would assist the teachers and not be doing the actual teaching. There will be an Open House for the program next week. Possible interested volunteers are encouraged to attend.

B. **Gathering Inn Lunches** – John Hagener discussed possibilities of adding onto the occasional lunches provided at the Gathering Inn site. Cooking isn't available there, very little space, BBQing outdoors allowed on occasion. We could provide a simple lunch perhaps starting with one or two days a month. **Due to lack of space, we would probably not be serving lunch, but just preparing and delivering it.** Martin has agreed to head this group and will check out with the GI to see their ideas and desires. Fran, Andrea and Dan have offered to help with this possible new mission. Probably would be for 50-70 people. **In doing a lunch program in Roseville, we would be trying to get more of the Saint Clare community involved in feeding the hungry.**

C. **Loaves and Fishes Signups, Rosaries** - Sign ups are now through April via "Sign Up Genius". We possibly could not continue this mission after these sign ups if we decide to take up doing lunches for Gathering Inn. It is a long distance and lots of other churches are already **waiting to be** involved there. Father Carlo gave out 300 rosaries at the last breakfast and loved doing it!

- **Reports**

- A. **Gathering Inn** (Martin) - Martin White at (916) 799-2693 to call if planning to visit, help, provide food etc. Thanked Brian for always doing the morning cleanup after we've hosted Gathering Inn. Clients are very helpful in getting the room reset up etc.
- B. **North Highlands Christian Food Ministry** - Margaret Small - A big thank you for all the backpacks which clients were thrilled with and not expecting. Work better than the stocking from previous year as can be reused. A little problem was difficulty in telling from the outside if the pack was for a man or woman. Also, some packs had lots more items than others. This past month 100 homeless were served, 400 families, and 900- 1,000 meals were served. Numbers are up once again. Still need socks and toiletries. Another member shared that Emma has these items available, plus Bill has socks to give to Margaret.
- C. **Excel** - (John) - High Street at a playground with a small building. Excel back in business after the holidays Numbers are now down - 12-18 students each day. This does give each child a lot of attention. Have gone to more traditional snacks leaving out the sugars, etc. Trying to introduce children to foods they may not be familiar with.
- D. **What Would Jesus Do?** (Fran McMahon) - Smaller group last week due to rain, but this allows for more individual attention and evangelizing. Fran gives out rosaries along with booklets on how to say the rosary. A request was put in for \$2,000 for a new coffee machine and our group was able to give \$1,000.
- E. **StVdP** - (George Beutner) - Food program has expanded with much more variety of food and people can "shop" much more like in a regular store. May start doing it on a weekly basis. Around 400 turkeys were given out over the holidays. Possible problem which may need monitors in those areas are with the meats, dairy products and some of the veggies. Don't want first people to take all the better items, leaving less desired items for later arrivals. Only serve people with housing. Home deliveries are also provided including help to refrigerate items and stock the cupboards for people needing it.
- F. **Jail Ministry and Sierra College Foster Kids** (Carole Chicoine)- no recent requests for items for the 2 jails and Sierra College only in need of granola bars and cup of soups at the present time. Bill will have some cup of soups soon.

G. A new Catholic TV show in our area. Father Mike who has said mass at St. Clare's is the moderator and the show will have different guests each week. The show is at 7 a.m. on Sunday mornings. On CCI it is on Channel 19, it is under Sacramento Religious Programming.

H. Saturday, February 10, from 8:30-1 will be a special day for married couple, including a vow renewal during the day. The workshop will be talks on the five languages of love. Registration information will be in the bulletin.

Closing prayer done by Bill. Also reminded that there is no February meeting.