

Parish Council Meeting Notes for SRO

Monday, October 28, 2013

Activities and events in October through November in planning/execution stages:

Serving the Vulnerable

Bereavement Ministry

1. **Fall 2013** support group is in process; there are five participants in this session.
2. **Annual Memorial Mass** is scheduled for this Saturday, November 2nd. Over 112 parishioners/family members will be named at the Mass. This is a beautiful Mass to attend and support of grieving parishioners is very helpful and has been encouraged. A reception after Mass will be held in the Duffy Center.

Respect for Life

Life Issues Study Lecture held on October 16. Dr. Marguerite Duane spoke on *The Gift of Self and Human Sexuality*, which covered NFP and church teaching. Turnout was low but Dr. Duane believes in teaching people as the need arises and trusts that the word will spread.

1. **Christmas card sales** will begin this and next weekend. Proceeds will benefit Right to Life Montgomery County. We are trying to get Spanish cards again this year but unfortunately, the effort came too late. A RFL Committee team will evaluate how to complete this action now for next year!

St. Vincent de Paul Conference

1. On October 1, 2013, the Conference changed Officers. Mary O'Neil is the

President and Ursula Boesch is the Vice President. The Secretary and Treasurer positions remain the same.

2. During FY 2013, SVdP served **91 adults** and **85 children** with **\$26,294.00**. Funding primarily assisted with evictions and utility disconnections prevention, medical bill assistance and funeral expenses were also provided.
3. Next Fundraiser for SVdP will be held at the beginning of Lent. It is called "**Empty Bowls**". This provides the opportunity for parishioners to come and have a simple meal of soup and bread while learning about hunger and poverty in the community and then take home a hand potted bowl donated by local artisans. A few Catholic Schools in the area will also be donating bowls for the event. Our goal is to have 200 bowls donated. Panera Bread will be donating the soup and bread. The plan is to keep the price of a ticket to a reasonable rate.

St. Martin's DC/Twinning

1. The St. Martin's Gospel Choir sung at yesterday's 11:30 A.M. Mass. St. Martin's received the second collection at this Mass; we are waiting for a total because Fr. Kelley took the 2nd collection with him. Fr. Kelley was grateful for the Parish's generosity.
2. **Thanksgiving Day Activities** are underway. The **Canned Food Drive** for non-perishables will begin on Monday, November 4th. A bulletin insert of items needed will in next weekend's bulletin. The **Frozen Turkeys** will be due at the end of the food drive on Sunday, November 24th. Goal this year will be 350 frozen turkeys. **Roasted turkeys and baked desserts** will be collected on Wednesday, November 27th to be taken down on Thanksgiving Day morning. The **Winter Coat Drive** will also end on Sunday, November 24th.
3. St. Martin's will also be a beneficiary of the Advent Giving Tree Program. Arrangements for STM volunteers to pick up donations has been arranged.

Advent Giving Tree Program

1. This year, the collection period is shortened by one week due to the late date of Christ the King. The co-chairs have submitted notices for the

bulletin, alerts on the Tree tags to instruct parishioners and short pulpit announcements to alert parishioners about the shortened period.

Mother Teresa Event

1. This year's event is Tuesday, December 10th. We have 2 new co-chairs to organize and hold the event (Mary Anne Feydor and Lori Hughes). We hope to keep expenses down; we have many socks and toiletries from last year so the needs are being specified. This year's gift to the guests will include: candy, toiletry bags, socks and a rainproof poncho.

Earth Community

1. The EC Fall Lecture honoring St. Francis of Assisi was held and showed the DVD *Melting Ice, Mending Creation: a Catholic Approach to Climate Change*. It dealt with the glacier melting photographic evidence that has taken place since the 2007 Extreme Ice Survey conducted by scientists.

Separated and Divorced Catholics (SDC)

1. Young parishioners facing this change in their lives are having trouble coping. A few individuals approached a former member of SDC looking for support. This group stopped meeting a few years back but they are now learning that many people are looking for guidance of Church Teaching and for pastoral support. Some of those who were once involved are seeing that laity led ministry may now be needed once again. Sandy is looking to explore how to go about doing this to present to the Pastor in the future. There is no core group yet but SDC wishes to inform the council that there is a need. The program at ADW will also be investigated.