

Social Concerns Committee Minutes

Prayer Room, Tuesday, January 2, 2023, 1:00 pm

Attendees: Jane Berkeley, Mary Haggard, Rose Mary Zverina, Cheryl Sedlak, Maggie McIntyre, Jeanette Nappier, Tom Nappier

- Opening prayer
- Microsoft Teams:
 - members practiced logging on to Teams with their mobile devices
 - February and March meetings will be exclusively on Teams
- Mail
 - Thank you notes from Fill This House, St. Colman Outreach and Front Steps were shared
 - Cheryl will check the SCC mailbox before the February and March meetings
- Halloween Candy: Kathy
 - A report follows the minutes
- GIFT Program: Rose Mary, Jane, Rita
 - Increased volume over last year
 - The students who helped were fantastic
 - Next year each tag should include
 - wrapping instructions
 - instructions about attaching the tag firmly to the outside of the gift
 - Terri did an amazing job digitizing the tags and will store the files for future use
 - Thanks to Gayle for printing the tags
 - Thanks to John for storing the gifts and handling the Monday pickups
 - Thanks to Dawn for collecting gift cards
 - Next year the sorting will begin after the 11:30 mass ends
 - Bulletin thank you article with pictures has been written
 - A report follows the minutes
- Creation Care: Jeanette, Sharon
 - Lament: Sharon, Jeanette
 - Sunday, March 3
 - Initial revisions of program were made in Publisher
 - Copy of program requested by Bishop Woost was emailed, Fr. John and Sharon were copied
 - Readers are needed; paper copies of 2023 program were distributed
- Basket Raffle: Maggie, Jeanette
 - Three baskets will be prepared by the Social Concerns Committee
 - Local/sustainable foods (non-perishable)
 - Possible items to be donated by committee
 - Smuckers fruit jellies and jam
 - Items identified as local by signs at Heinen's
 - Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate already donated

- Members will identify an item or items they wish to donate and report at the February meeting to avoid duplication
 - Members will deliver items to Maggie's house before February 20
 - Gift cards: a bulletin announcement will ask for donations from parishioners
 - Family basket
- Committee members will sell tickets before and after masses on March 9&10 and at the Soup Supper on March 12
- Liaison Reports
 - Ladies Guild: Jane
 - Jan 24 book club meeting
 - Sangria and water bar social in January
 - Parish Council: Cheryl
 - A copy of the Parish Survey Update that appeared in the June, 2020 Belltower Beacon was distributed
 - The goals are being reviewed
- Closing Prayer
- Next meeting February 6, 2024 at 1:00 pm on Teams (no in-person meeting)

Respectfully submitted,

January 6, 2024

Jeanette Nappier

Halloween Candy Collection

Preparation- Have a notice put in the bulletin about 2-3 weeks before

On the weekend after Halloween put boxes or crates at all entrances of the church. John the janitor will help with this.

Have Mary Meler also collect at the school.

Collection Day- Be there after 1130 mass. Collect all of the boxes and bring them to the indoor entrance of the school. PSR will help you carry the boxes into the school.

Distribution-Mary Meler will work with you on organizations that will receive the Candy. The school also fills 200 bags as a service project

Kathy Rohn

2023 Xmas GIFT Program Report

Giving In Faith Together

Committee members again this year were: Rose Mary Zverina, Rita

Kerfonta, Jane Berkeley, and Gayle Cilimburg

The GIFT program was a great success, thanks to so many generous people!

It went very smoothly, and we had a number of new elements added or suggested for the program. Those are highlighted below.

We had an amazing response to the Gift Tag program this year—out of 875 tags offered, parishioners picked up 792 Tags for donations, an **increase of 156 over last year!** And we added one new agency, **Sisters Haven**.

Preparations began in October when Rose Mary confirmed dates and spaces needed for the program with John, our parish custodian.

Each of the 15 agencies was contacted by Rita (10) and Rose Mary (5) to make sure they wanted to participate again, ask for any changes to last year's requests, and verify the website address for online donations.

(This year, Dawn Bloom received a number of phone calls asking if the donations should be wrapped. It was suggested **that next year we ask each agency to specify gift wrap or no gift wrap for their donations** and add their responses to the Tags.

On October 24, Rose Mary and Jane met with Terri Pastura, our parish IT specialist, to discuss a way to digitize the gift tags. **Terri was amazing, and created digital files** for each gift tag, incorporating any changes requested from the agency, and updating the graphics if needed. These files proved to be a great **time-saver**, and will **remain with Terri for use in the future**.

We also submitted the notice for the Bulletin to run from Nov. 25/26 to the pick-up date of December 17. Remember, **any notices/articles should be sent to both Dawn Bloom and Terri Pastura two weeks before the Bulletin date**. Dawn also uses the content for Constant Contact, and Terri uses it for the new digital message boards and Facebook posts.

Based on Rose Mary's tallies on the number of tags picked up for 2022, per agency, Gayle decided the amount for 2023. We added 55 to the total number offered.

Gayle had the files printed, with distinctive colors for each agency. Rita and Rose Mary folded the tags. Rose Mary also created signs for the tables reminding people to take gift cards to the parish office not to the Gathering Area. Signs were also made for the sorting/assembly area on pick-up day. On November 24, Rose Mary and Jane set up the tables in the lower Gathering Area with 15 baskets, each holding Tags for one agency.

The wreaths at the three entrances were also filled (usually 40--50 Tags per wreath.) They checked each area once or twice a week throughout the display, especially on Fridays, to refill the wreaths.

John moved any donations brought to the upper Gathering Area before the final weekend into locked storage in the Parish Center, as needed. Dawn kept all gift cards delivered to the Parish Office in locked storage as well.

(These cards need to be collected by SCCC by 11/24, the Friday before pick-up.)

Rita and Rose Mary contacted each agency to confirm pick-up time for Dec. 17. Three agencies were scheduled to pick up on Monday, Dec 18.

Remember to give each Monday pick-up agency the custodian's phone number. John handles all non-Sunday pick-ups. (Thank you, John!)

This year was the second year for the PSR classes' Christmas Pageants, held in the Parish Center (also our sorting/pick-up area.) It's a very busy place,

and there was a little delay to the start of our gathering/sorting activities.

Fr. John requested that next year **we delay our start until the 11:30 Mass is done, with pick-ups also delayed from the normal 12:30 start.**

(Agencies often arrive a bit earlier.) **This needs to be determined early in the process next year.**

Several members of the SCCC joined Rose Mary and Jane on Dec 17 for gathering/sorting around 11:30 (thank you Jeanette and Tom Napier, Maggie McIntyre, Cheryl Selak and Sharon Armstrong!) Sharon also brought 19 of her PSR Confirmation and Junior High students to help. They were again, amazing—very efficient, hard-working—and cheerful! We couldn't manage without them! Despite the late start, gifts were carried in from the gathering area and the storage area and sorted by agency, ready for pick-up. We had a real rush of agencies coming in through the rain!

As our donations increase, **we might want to assign some tasks: checker for each agency's gift pile, greeter stationed at the door, photographer (with suggestion of shots needed for Belltower Beacon and social media.)**

There was a request for some "action shots" involving the SCC members in addition to pics of the teens (who do handle almost all the deliveries to the drivers in line, while a SCCC member monitors.)

Cars lined up quickly in the pick-up zone. The teens filled carts with donations, wheeled them out, and loaded the waiting cars. The driver from Cleveland Christian Home didn't have enough room in her car for all the

donations, and agreed to come back on Monday for the rest of the packages.

And all was done in time for the Browns' game at 1 pm!

The next morning, Jane sent a Thank You notice for the Bulletin and social media to Dawn Bloom and Terri Pastura.

The Monday pick-ups were completed.

Rosemary will do the tally of Tags not chosen per agency for use in planning next year's program.

Jane will gather photos from those who took them and write the article for the March Belltower Beacon (due in late January.)

And all materials (baskets, wreaths, tablecloths, etc...) will be stored at St. Christopher for next year.

Overall, it was a very successful program. However, based on the increase in the number of Tags picked up this year, the questions Dawn fielded about logistics, and the number of new opportunities for updates (digital boards, etc...) we may be gaining new participants not familiar with the program.

Next year, we may want to supplement our bulletin and social media notices with basic information such as reminders to attach Tags securely to each package/bag, wrap or not per each agency's preference, reminders to deliver gift cards to the parish office not the Gathering Area, perhaps offer a list of the 15 agencies we serve with each one's focus—homeless, foster care, maternity care, etc... **This should be brainstormed early in the process as well.**

Jane Berkeley