

## Social Concerns Minutes

January 23, 2024

Members in Attendance: Reta Althaus, Patsy Carlson, Paul Carlson, Terri Hannan, Doris Larkins, Patty McClain, and Jean McPherson

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### Social Teaching

Patsy led the discussion on this topic: Call to Family, Community and Participation from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. We shared thoughts on the quote from Pope Francis, "Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds." We discussed the fact that, by our involvement with committees here at St. Luke's, we ultimately affect our local and global communities by the actions we promote.

### Tithe of the Tithe from November and December:

\$2000.00	St. Martin De Porres, our sister-parish in Ghana
\$191.65	Payment to St. Luke's for Angel Tree
\$1703.00	Catholic Charities Family Shelter
\$1703.00	Catholic Charities Food Pantry
\$1705.71	TAKE, the non-profit Ankeny organization
\$7303.36	<b>TOTAL</b>

### Rice Bowl

Patsy Carlson volunteered to manage this. There will be weekly bulletin announcements providing education and reminders to donate. Matching money will be added to this collection from our March/April tithe money. The link for CRS Rice Bowl donations will be provided in the bulletin and in the weekly email. Parishioners will be encouraged to return their boxes during Holy Week or after Easter, but not on Easter. The Rice Bowl boxes will be provided in the narthex on the first weekend of Lent. The school and RE programs will make use of those not taken on the first weekend.

### **Angel Tree Assessment**

We agreed that the \$25 gift cards were well received. The Venmo and charge QR codes were used by many. A suggestion for next year would be to have a box to toss any used recipients' names in and record them later in a notebook. It would save time when we are serving those purchasing the gift cards.

### **Sister- Parish Relationship**

Since our committee provides essential monetary support for our sister parish of St. Martin De Porres, Father Ryan has asked for our participation in a new Sister-Parish committee that he has formed. Reta and Doris attended the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and will continue to attend future meetings. At the December meeting, Father Ryan shared a picture of the corresponding members of our committee at St. Martin De Porres. Building began in December for a fence around the school. Ongoing plans are being made for members of St. Lukes to travel to Ghana in June.

### **Love Lunch**

Doris revisited the topic of the Love Lunch program which provides lunch for school aged children during the summer. She proposed more publicity in the bulletin and Wednesday email with ongoing information published about Love Lunch throughout the summer. Emphasis needs to be placed on the varied Love Lunch volunteer jobs and the fact that volunteers' own children can join them in this worthwhile project.

### **Vice Chairperson**

Many committees use the vice chair set up as an aid for a smooth yearly transition. A vice chair works with the chairperson. The next year, the vice chair becomes the chairperson and a new member takes on the job of the vice chair. Our committee would like to initiate this plan. Please consider if you would volunteer for the role of vice chair for this year.

**Future Events:** Catholic Worker House on February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 23.

The next scheduled meeting for Social Concerns will be on **Tuesday March 26.**