

**Outreach Commission Report
December 6, 2016
Ralph Parchment, Chair**

Most Recent Meeting – November 7, 2016

Next Scheduled Meeting – Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Resolution of the Poor Box Issue

- Poor Box recipients - Ralph relayed the Pastoral Council’s concern about supporting the Community Free Clinic because some of its medical approaches to the teen pregnancy crisis in WC may contradict current church teaching. Given the short time period that remained before the first Sunday of November, the fastest solution was to suspend St Ann’s support of the Community Free Clinic and substitute the Hagerstown Area Pregnancy Center as the November recipient. No Council member disagreed with this decision, and a one endorsed it. A PC member recommended Mary’s Center as a Catholic substitute, but at this point, the HAPC is the only Maryland Right to Life pregnancy referral center in Washington County. The Outreach Comm has contacted Mary’s Center to find out more about it.

Several members of the Outreach Commission were concerned about pulling support from the Community Free Clinic and the negative impression that seemed to be forming, because it contradicted members’ first-hand experience with its key role providing health care to school children and their families who find themselves in the health care coverage gap.

Finally, the Commission agreed that there was much to learn about pregnancy support programs, what they do, and what role community health clinics play in the overall health care system with Medicaid and with the Affordable Care Act. Toward the goal of becoming more informed about the issue of teen pregnancy and single motherhood in WC, the Commission will use wintertime to consider organizing a panel discussion to become more informed about how pro-life theology can be applied both to birth and motherhood, especially the link between single motherhood and risk of poverty. This could create an outreach opportunity for a more significant St Ann impact in this arena than only Poor Box donations, could be tied to an expression of Mercy St Ann experienced during the year of Mercy, and could be structured to honor and support women who make courageous pro-life decisions.

Thus, the Poor Box recipient list is set through April 2017. The May recipient agency will need to be identified after learning more from the panel discussion, and Habitat will remain as the June agency only if it has plans in place for the Apostles Build program in summer 2017.

FY17 (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017)			
Month	Agency	Amount	Agency Mission
Jul	Holly Place	\$ 684.20	assisted living for low-income elderly
Aug	Parishioners’ Needs	\$ 492.92	assistance for parishioners w/financial difficulties
Sep	Children in Need	\$ 592.67	school supplies and other items for local, low-income children and MS/HS students
Oct	Hagerstown Rescue Mission	\$ 495.33	men dealing with substance abuse w/soup kitchen
Nov	Hagerstown Area Pregnancy Ctr	--	support of pregnant women facing difficult decisions

Dec	Loaves and Fishes	--	Community Food Bank at St Mark's
Jan	CASA	--	victims of domestic violence
Feb	W House	--	women dealing with substance abuse
Mar	Salvation Army	--	poor and homeless women/children w/soup kitchen
Apr	STAR Ventures	--	Community for mentally-challenged adults
May	TBN	--	--
Jun	Habitat for Humanity – Apostles Build Program (pending receipt of plans for a building program)	--	Affordable housing that low-income families can earn through sweat equity

Updates from Other Outreach Ministries

- Advent Giving Tree - the tagged trees are in place for 500 recipients, including a new agency (Broadmoor Assisted Living); still spaces for parishioner assistance if needed; gifts are due back on Dec 11th, when they will be sorted and delivered.
- Bereavement –currently, 30 volunteers provide food and do the set-up and clean-up for lunch receptions for families and friends after a funeral. Two families hosted since August. Reception after the All Souls Day Mass (November 2) for those who lost a loved one during the past year.
- Children in Need – Outreach will schedule four collections over the year, which is intended to eliminate the confusion with food collection Sunday by separating CiN from Loaves & Fishes and Micah's Backpack. There was a gently used coat drive over several weeks in October, and a hats and gloves collection for CiN/Head Start in November. St Ann volunteers started working at CiN one evening a month in November; looking for middle and high school youth as well as Confirmation candidates to help, including middle school sorting of items before delivery to CiN. Bulletin week of Nov 14th contained info about the Dec 6 work session, when confirmation students are welcome. Coordinating with Martha Trumble, who has done the November hat and gloves collection for CiN, with a flyer about it distributed via Faith Formation.
- Communications – St Ann Reaches Out newsletter will be distributed as an insert in the December 10/11 bulletin and will report on nearly all the ministries. A special thanks to Kathy Sebrosky who once again was a terrific help in editing and formatting the document
- English and More - English and More, Inc in Hagerstown currently assists three adults preparing for their citizenship tests. Three St Ann parishioners are weekly volunteers, with a fourth ready to join in October. The center averaged 8-10 students per day over the summer, a slight decrease from the winter/spring attendance due to young children being at home. In collaboration with Fr. Juan Rubio, E&M arranged for staff from El Salvador's DC consulate to come to Hagerstown (St Joseph) to conduct the issuance/renewal of TPS cards (temporary protected status), and approximately 40 El Salvadorans attended. The consulate returned to St Joseph in September to provide other consulate services. These events were used to communicate the E&M ministry, and as a result, student registration increased both in Hagerstown and Frederick. E&M continues to meet at the Presbyterian Church in Hagerstown, which has been renovating classrooms to improve the learning environment. This year's \$1,250 donation to cover some facility rent and supplies has been paid out. There is an additional commitment of \$1,250 per year planned for two more years.
- Habitat for Humanity/Apostles Build – A letter from HfH-WC to the local congregations was expected, kicking off Apostles Build, but the letter has not been released yet. So, the future of this program remains uncertain, and the \$1,000 donation budgeted for HfH-WC will be held until the agency proves it can become more organized.

- Haiti Parish Partnership - The Sunrise Rotary Gala fundraiser on Oct 30th was a big success, with St Ann sponsoring 6 tables and more than meeting our commitment for raffle and ticket sales. St Ann will be one of the beneficiaries of this event, which funds will be applied to the clean water project in Dessalines parish, a partnership between Sunrise and San Marc Rotary clubs, Rotary Intl, St Ann and St Claire/Fr Alexis. The funds raised will be used to drill more wells for clean drinking water in the area surrounding Dessalines. Planning for next year's Summer Camp has started. Rosary making will begin on 10/25 for the Rosary exchange between our two parishes. Fr Alexis plans to visit next February for the Littlest Angels Campaign kickoff.
- Holly Place - currently 10 volunteers providing a meal over the next three months once a week.
- Loaves and Fishes – Logistics have been re-organized because of the change in Mass schedule. Now one volunteer is scheduled each month to collect the donated food and deliver the food collection to the St Mark's food bank on the following Monday/Tuesday. This has been working well so far.
- Maryland Catholic Conference Lobby Night – Too early in the season to report
- Micah's Backpack – Serving up to 20 students weekly at Maugansville now (up from 16-20). Micah's recently focused on personal care items for the students (tooth brush/paste, hand soap) because Maugansville ES is teaching those children who can't do those things at home how to do them and will supply them with necessary items. The team has also taken on a new project. When a child becomes "homeless" in our county the Board of Ed does a lot of supportive steps to help the family. One of the things they do is to provide transportation to the school the child went to before the homeless status occurred. Micah's team is now packing 15 bags a week for those people driving the students to carry with them, and to pass them out to the child when they need them. This hasn't started yet (Team is ready but the board is working on details). These students might be living in a campground one night and a shelter the next. The students we are supporting are middle school and high school students. All Elementary age students get Micah's when they become homeless. As a committee, the Team figured out that we need food that can be eaten cold, and with out tools like a can opener, or a microwave. We have asked some parishioners who work at the Board office on Downsville pike to help us deliver the bags to the board office. Dr. Clayton Wilcox, a parishoner, who happens to be the Superintendent, is one of the families who has agreed to pick up the bags weekly and deliver them to the Board office. The expected start date will be 1/17. Micah's Backpack will be providing a Christmas food basket for the Maugansville Elementary School families receiving Micah's.
- REACH Cold Weather Shelter - The first meeting for shelter coordinators occurred on Thursday, 10/13. Bulletin announcements for volunteers will begin in November. St Ann will sponsor the week of January 22-28th. The center opened Oct 23rd for 7 days each week from 7 pm-7 am. Last year's 46 bed count for men was reduced to 30 because two grants were funded to subsidize the move into housing. Maximum stay is 3 nights except for Washington County residents. Lue will consider calling St Joe and St Mary, to see if they need a few volunteers from St Ann to meet each other and prepare for the pastorate formation with St Mary.
- Shawl Shepherds - The group recently knitted and crocheted scarves and hats for REACH, in addition to the prayer shawls.

Commission Goals

- Effective internal and external communication about Outreach missions
- Continuity of Commission leadership and mission teams
- Fill gaps in Outreach mission opportunities so every parishioner has one or more opportunities to put faith into action
 - Post-confirmation youth
 - Young adults

- Retired parishioners
- Parishioners who cannot drive (“the accessible parish”)