

HUMAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT 2011

The Human Concerns Committee has developed a series of campaigns to involve members of St. Mary's and St. Andrew's in projects to assist the needy at home and abroad, and to educate parishioners about social justice issues. Members of the committee during the past year were Janine Andes, Phyllis Heideman, Willis Heideman, Marge Cramer, Judy Vogenthaler, Ellen Guse, Joan Brown, Kim Hanke, Marie Berry, Marge Brandel, Michael Bachhuber, and Ann Guse of St. Mary's, and Cynthia Thomae, and Cathy Billington of St. Andrew's.

Annual activities the committee sponsored or coordinated:

Quilting---Quilting is an activity with a long history at St. Mary's. Currently it also includes production of other useful items. A number of people work all year round on these projects. In spring a group gets together for the specific purpose of tying quilts. This year the combined efforts of all have produced 42 double-bed quilts plus an assortment of other items which have been donated to agencies which serve the needy in our part of the state, such as Clothes 4 Kids in Beaver Dam, and St. Ben's, House of Peace, and Fr. Gene's HELP in Milwaukee.

Food Pantry Weekend---Our committee emphasizes our ongoing collection of non-perishable items for the Mayville Food Pantry by publicizing food pantry weekend the first weekend of each month and setting out a collection containers at our churches. We are pleased that many people have responded with monthly donations.

Homemade Bread Sale---A sale of homemade bread held in conjunction with one of the Lenten services. Profits were used to make a donation to Church Health Services and to fund our committee activities..

Collection for PAVE (People Against a Violent Environment) ---Collection of paper supplies given to PAVE in Beaver Dam took place during the weeks of Lent.

Easter cards to shut-ins---Easter cards were sent to shut-in members of our two parishes.

May Baskets for Hygiene---Toiletries for hygiene bags distributed to the homeless are collected year round in our churches, but we emphasized collection of these items in May as a reminder to our parishioners.

Christmas in July---The Christmas in July program was initiated several years ago as a way to collect an ample supply of food to stock the local food pantry during the summer months, an expansion of our regular first-Sunday-of-the-month food pantry collection. Parishioners were invited to bring food throughout the month and to make monetary donations to the pantry. Also during July, the Human Concerns Committee asked for donations of socks and underwear for children and requested monetary donations to be used for school supplies, all of which were given to Clothes 4 Kids, which serves children preparing for the new school year.

Crop Hunger Walk---The committee coordinates participation of our parishes in CROP Walk, an ecumenical event sponsored by area churches each year in September. The walk helps people to become of aware of world hunger and raises funds to help the needy. Of the money raised here, 25% is donated to the local food pantry; the remaining 75% goes to Church World Service to assist the needy worldwide. Walkers from our two parishes will again participate in this event..

Work of Human Hands Sale - In cooperation with Catholic Relief Services and SERRV International, we will hold in October our ninth annual sale of items crafted by Third World artisans. A portion of the sale amount is donated to Catholic Relief Services, and our small profit is given to a charity.

Winter Clothing Campaign---Winter outerwear for the homeless will be collected during the month of October.

Christmas cards to the shut-ins---Christmas cards will be sent to shut-in members of both parishes.

The Human Concerns Committee hopes to continue these projects in the coming year.