**PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

**(*Christian Life Commission)***

**January, 2013**

**Introductory Remarks:** During 2012 our beloved, Sr. Jeanette Mariani took another position and left Our Mother of Sorrows staff. In July 2012 her responsibilities were split between Dianna Maugans and Laura Stehle. Below is an update of the ministries we both oversee under the umbrella of the Christian Life Commission.

**CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION CORE GROUP:** The leadership group consists of seven **(8)** members. Katie Hirschboeck, Ph.D., continues as Chair person. Maggie Medina, Fran Nutt, Jeff Allen, Helen DeVries, Rich Sherwood, Diana Maugans and Laura Stehle. One of the things about this group is that they are very willing to “think outside the box” and to work together to enliven the Life of the Parish. Katie’s report on the CLC is attached.

**CLC Convocation/Retreat:** Last year Helen DeVries was the retreat director for the volunteers in areas III (Charity & Outreach & IV (Solidarity & Social Change). As always she did a wonderful job as a retreat director. Helen facilitated a retreat for the CLC commission members in November. Everyone agreed that it was a real blessing to be able to step back and have a retreat to rejuvenate us as we headed toward Advent. Helen and the commission are planning this year’s retreat which will focus on Chapter 10, Called to be a Shepherd, from the book *Leading Like Jesus*.

**Christian Life and Social Concerns**

**Prepared by: Laura Stehle Christian Life and Social Concerns Coordinator**

**St. Vincent de Paul Society:** Here are some stats on S.V.D.P. - Active members: **36**; associate members: **23**; homeless served each week: 16 – 20: number of families served each week: **25 – 30** (Food, furniture, rent, utilities, Community Food Bank). Tony Apodoca is the President and Jeff Allen is the First Vice President. When Joyce Brost stepped down as coordinator of the Christmas baskets, Jeff Allen stepped up into that roll and did a great job. They handed out 75 Christmas Baskets. The officers and members are a very committed group of people with hearts and heads directed to helping the “least among us”. Currently the St. Vincent de Paul Society is unable to help with rent, assists with about 1% of the requests for utility help, and 100% of the requests to purchase necessary medication.

**Blessed Nuno Society:** The Core Group continues to support this ministry under Tim Heinan, the National Executive Director and Tommy Bassett the chapter coordinator. Msgr. Tom Cahalane is the spiritual director of this Chapter, Deacon Francisco Zamora is the Prayer Coordinator and Rich Sherwood is the Mass Coordinator. Bob & Lynda Keenan are the Chapter Chair and Secretary. In 2012 the Chapter sponsored three trips to Agua Prieta which were all very moving experiences for those who attended. It means so much to the children at Our Lady Queen of Angels Orphanage to have someone hold them, read to them, and play with them. Physical contact is so important for these children. For 2013 the Chapter plans to have at least two trips (Lent and Advent), a summer showcase event in Tucson, plus three Masses. To help support the wonderful work the Blessed Nuno Society is doing, the October 2012 second collection, normally taken up for Haiti, was instead designated for the Blessed Nuno Society. Tim shared about the work being done at Our Lady of the Angels Orphanage at all the Masses and they received $3,128 from the collection. Gift Cards were also collected through the Angel Tree totaling $845.

**Casa Maria:** Maria Rodriguez continues to do a fabulous job making 300-400 sandwiches once a month. Hank Krzysik oversees the monthly Clothing Drive and continues to deliver clothing that is dropped at the Parish Office during the month. Each grade at Our Mother of Sorrows School takes a turn making lunches for Casa Maria as part of their community outreach experience. The OMOS volunteers meet quarterly to help stay connected as a group. Mayola McCray is the Chairperson of the group. Casa Maria is also one of the outreach groups that benefits from the Angel Tree.

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**Primavera Shelter:** The OMOS group, under the leadership of, Carl Sylvester, continues to prepare a full meal for Primavera on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Hank Krzysik and Carl and Carolyn Harlan help deliver and serve the food. This is a very rewarding ministry and those involved always say the people are extremely thankful for the wonderful meals we provide. They are another outreach group that receives gifts from the Angel Tree and they are very appreciative for all they receive.

**TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network):** Beverly Mahl, R.N., continues her work as the liaison. In March the Ladies Guild helps provide and prepare a luncheon for the POZ Café (for those with Aids/HIV) at St. Francis, in the Foothills Methodist Church. (Different churches take turns helping with the lunch.) TIHAN was included on the Angel Tree this year and the gifts of tissue, toilet paper, and paper towels will be used in the gift bags handed out at the POZ Café in March. Students will be decorating the bags as part of their Justice Monday outreach. Youth Group students also help decorate bags during the year.

**Consistent Ethic of Life**: This committee promotes and supports offering that lift up the Consistent Ethic of Life. During 2012 after the Wednesday Peace and Justice Mass there were a number of offering that promoted a Consistent Ethic of Life. The Director of Reachout Pregnancy spoke on what they are doing to help expectant mothers choose life, Faithful Citizenship was prayed for and explained by Katie Hirschboeck, and this month to celebrate National Migration Week CLC include a prayerful visual meditation on the plight of  migrants worldwide and the US Catholic Bishops' short video "Strangers No Longer. In March 2012 the CLC promoted Pima East Vicariate parishes to sit down together and talk about their thoughts and feelings on immigration and to bring them into dialogue with our Church’s teachings on migration. Fr. Ron Oakham facilitated this open conversation on immigration to help us develop a better understanding of this complex issue.

**Perigrinos Juntos:** Jean Fedigan continues to oversee this ministry. The action plan continues to advocate for solutions to immigration and border issues as well as supporting viable solutions by sponsoring the sale of Café Justo (Just Coffee) after specified weekend Masses.

**Economic Concerns**: In October this committee in conjunction with P.C.I.C. hosted *Pathway to Jobs.* Both parishioners and the community were invited to learn how to start on a path to a high-paying job. Those who attended learned about educational and job training opportunities.The committee also helped with the Thanksgiving Basket project which gave out to 100 baskets to needy parishioners and families within our parish boundaries.

**Haiti Project:** Joan Martin is in her tenth (10) year in ministry to the people in Haiti. We continue to “twin” with St. Francis parish in Bombardopolis and provide major funding for the priest, sisters, seminarians, catechists, school lunch program, and special funding to keep the parish vehicle repaired. As of January 12th Joan had completed her chemo and was on the 17radiation treatment. She is feeling well and at this time not experiencing many side effects from the radiation. She continues to oversee the Haiti projects through email and we should feel confident that the funds we send are being well managed. ***As always, Joan continues to be an inspiration to all of us!***

**Pima County Interfaith Council (PCIC):** Hank Krzysik, Chairperson of the Care for Creation Initiative is on the Green Team for PCIC. He continues to be involved with PCIC in events such as Congressmen Barber’s Interfaith Solar event. PCIC continues to take an active role in local energy policies. Jean Fedigan has been active with PCIC in the area of Healthcare. A Healthcare forum was present here at OMOS in November. Over 40 people attend this informative event.

**Care For Creation Initiative:** This past year has been very busy one for the Chairman, Hank Krzysik. For the Lenten Soup & Sacrifice last year spoons were purchased as a first step in caring for environment. It was also suggested to those who attended, to help care for creation by bringing their own soup bowl. This year the committee is looking at purchasing Soup Mugs as a second step. In April the committee sponsored an Earth Fair after all the Sunday morning Masses. It was extremely well received and people of all ages stopped by the booths to learn more about recycling, try their hand at some of the activities/science projects, and had a cookie baked in the solar oven on display. New energy efficient windows were installed at the school over the summer which was a necessary step before the school installed air conditioning. Not only are the windows more efficient but they also give the school a new updated look. The higher windows also provide a safer environment for the students. In September Hank Krzysik did a presentation on Arizona’s Energy Future that was very interesting and helped those that attended learn more about how energy policies are established and alternative energy programs proposed by TEP. The new charging station became operational last year and the first returns from the solar panels were received! The C.F.C.I. committee members went to the Santa Rita Abby for a retreat facilitated by Katie Hirschboeck. The retreat was wonderful and the surroundings perfect for a retreat on Caring for God’s Creation.

**Habitat for Humanity:** There has not been any activity this past year.

I see my role this year as one of helping the committees be successful in their ministries and to assist in implementing the Leading like Jesus style of servant leadership. Some of those projects committees are working on are as follows:

* The Haiti Committee at the suggestion of Joan Martin has decided to use the money collected through Change Haiti to help purchase a new vehicle for our twin parish St. Francis.
* The Care for Creation Initiative would like to purchase Soup Mugs for soup and sacrifice.
* Help promote the Blessed Nuno trips to the Queen of All Angels Orphanage so that more people can have that border crossing experience.
* Promote the work that TIHAN does and try to get a few people to attend volunteer training.
* Recruit several new people to attend P.C.I.C. meetings.
* Continue to work with agencies that help us promote a consistent ethic of life to all ages.

**Updates**: There are a number of other outreach groups that are not formally listed as Our Mother of Sorrows Christian Life ministries but have an OMOS connection.

Great things happened last year and continue to happen at the Sr. Jose Women’s Shelter. Jean Fedigan and many of the volunteers at the shelter are from Our Mother of Sorrows Parish. The first Sr. Jose Women’s Shelter dinner took place in September and about 200 people attended. It was a wonderful and successful event. In November 2012 the shelter moved into a more permanent location at 18 S. 18th St. Thanks to the amazing job Jean has done, up to 14 women have been able to enjoy dinner and a warm, safe night’s sleep in a home like atmosphere. The parish helped collect necessary items for the shelter through our Angel Tree Project.

We continue to support of other outreach groups such as Reachout Pregnancy and Merilac Lodge. A Diaper Drive on Mother’s Day and promoting the work that happens at these agencies is an important part of this ministry. On Justice Monday’s in November and December the 8th Grade OMOS School students helped sort diapers and clothing at Reachout. Students learn about the work they do and how this is all part of a consistent ethic of life from womb to tomb.

We also support the wonderful work that is done at the Poverello House, under the direction of Brother David Buer, by including them on our Angel Tree. The Poverello House provides meals and respite to 12 homeless men during the day in a home like setting. Brother David visits with our Junior High Students, who make hygiene packages for the men, and talks with them about Tucson’s Homeless. Brother David and the men appreciate the socks and sweatshirts collected through the Angel Tree.

In closing, a wonderful example of Christian Life in the Parish happened last May. The parish hosted a group of 13 children and 8 adults from Mexico that came to Arizona to receive medical help from the Shriners. All those OMOS parishioners who helped set up cots for sleeping, prepared food, translated, and cleaned up will tell you that it was a blessing to have the opportunity to serve the least among us.

This is a very rewarding part of my ministry here and I welcome any suggestions you might have. Thank you for your ongoing support.

**Pastoral Care**

**Prepared by: Diana Maugans Pastoral Care Coordinator**

**Community Building:** The ministries in this area are: Welcoming***,*** Fiesta, Ladies Guild, and the Golden Agers. They continue their good work but struggle with the recruitment of new members.

**Community Health & Caring:** The ministries in this area are as follows with a brief report on their activities:

**Stephen Ministry:** Currently, there are **12** active members, and **6** Leaders. During the past year, I have made **15** referrals for Care Receivers. We continue to receive referrals from other nearby organizations (Eastside Neighborhood Volunteer Program (ENVP), Villa Maria Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Rehab Center, and the Chaplains from St. Joseph Hospital. I continue to co-chair the City Wide effort to support Stephen Ministry in a number of Protestant Churches who are committed to the ministry. We continue to participate in the city wide formation program. We have six new volunteers, who will complete their formation in March, 2013. They will be commissioned for ministry in March 2013. Some of the other Leaders assist me in the responsibility of teaching in the formation program.

**MOSES**: During the past year 79 funerals were conducted. This group hosted 34 funeral luncheons. Beginning December 1, 2012, the MOSES group added another Lead person. Each Lead is assigned 3 days per week, to serve as needed, so that no one has to serve two consecutive days. Evaluate in 2013 for effectiveness.

**Bereavement Support:** This is the six year that the series has been offered in conjunction with Casa de la Luz Hospice. Grace Schnakenberg, RN, counselor continues to be the presenter of the series which is offered four to six times each year depending on the number of deaths that occur during each period. Grace has extended the series by adding a “drop in” session from time to time for those who have participated in the past and just need an extra spiritual “boost” in the handling of their grief. She also sponsors an annual Pot Luck luncheon for all former participants.

**Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound:** Currently, there are forty (40) active ministers **(**4 more than last year). These ministers provide weekly Holy Communion to ninety (**90**) communicants. In addition, communicants include those at Atria Belle Courts, Cornerstone Rehab Hospital, Devon Gables Nursing Home and at Villa Campana Nursing Home.

**Health Care Ministry:**

**Blood Pressure Clinic:** Grace Schnakenberg, R.N., retired from leadership in October 2012, to the blood pressure clinic. The clinics are coordinated with the quarterly blood drive with an average of \*20-30 blood pressures being taken each time. Very often, participants are encouraged to see their physician due to abnormal readings.

**Blood Drive:** Eric Maugans, in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus, has done a fine job since they took on the responsibility of coordinating the drive in 2010. Eric continues to provide the leadership for this ministry by managing donor recruitment and as liaison with the Red Cross. Drives are held quarterly.

**Counseling Ministry:** Mary Lebron retired from the counseling ministry having served from November 2005 through May 2012. What a blessing she has been, not to speak of the “miracles’ she’s advanced in the many lives she has touched. Her calming presence will be sorely missed!

**St. Peregrine Ministry:** We continue to honor St. Peregrine, the patron of cancer patients, three **(3)** times during the year at the regular First Friday Healing Mass.

**Other Related Pastoral Activities:**

*Prayer Request Cards (for those seeking healing:* In 2012, I reviewed about 300 requests, calling each person to determine what follow-up might be helpful and appropriate. As in the past, parishioners express their appreciation for the support offered to them. These calls are the source of referrals to both Stephen Ministry.

I continue to participate in the Parish Nurse Network (Sponsored by the Carondolet Health Care System). We established a goal of communicating health related programs to parishioners. The goal will be evaluated in January 2013.

*Ministry at University Physician’s Hospital:* As in the past, Deacon Charles Whalen continues to provide leadership for this effort. Fr. Jorge says Mass there for the patients and staff once each week (Tues.). He is assisted by \*eleven (11**)** OMOS volunteers who distribute Holy Communion on those same days. Fr. Jorge is on call *24/7* and answers numerous pastoral emergency calls.

Their biggest challenge is to cover the schedule when someone calls in unable to serve. Their biggest accomplishment is being able to provide the Eucharist, Anointing and Reconciliation to most of the patients requesting the sacraments. Currently, there are EMEs who work in pairs to cover the entire schedule.

*Ministry at Atria Belle Courts:* Our two (2) wonderful women, Nancy Coker (during the Spring, Summer, Fall) and Fran Gisondo-Polcari, a winter visitor (during the winter), provide a weekly scripture and Communion Service. Anna Teran substitutes as needed.

*Other related health care opportunities:* Monthly listings of free health related topics offered at TMC and PCOA are published in the parish bulletin.

*On-going/routine work*

* Co-ordinate, recruit and orient Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound.
* Refer individuals to professional counselor as needed.
* Co-ordinate bereavement needs:
  + Attend funerals and co-ordinate the MOSES luncheon program.
  + Send out timely condolence letters to the next of kin.
  + Call next of kin one month after the funeral to offer continued support.
  + Notify the Bishop’s office of all deaths on a monthly basis.
* Provide leadership for all facets of the Stephen Ministry Program including:
  + Recruitment of new ministers.
  + Planning Continuing Education programs.
  + Screening and selection of appropriate, new Care Receivers.
  + Teaching new candidates in the shared, city-wide formation program.
* Develop healthy relationships with the Pastor, peers, support staff and volunteers

**Goals achieved during 2012**

* Recruited six **(6)** individuals for formation in the Stephen Ministry program.
* Recruited six **(6)** new EME’s for the homebound.
* Continued coordinating date for Blood Drive and Blood Pressure Clinic.

**Future Goals**:

* To continue identifying, recruiting, providing formation and leadership to volunteers for the ministries for which I am responsible.
* To establish an ***expanded (ie Partner)*** working relationship with **I**nterfaith **C**ommunity **S**ervice (ICS).
* To meet the new Diocesan Director of Detention Ministry, Mike Gutierrez, and explore improving/expanding our ministry.
* To recruit 4-6 new Stephen Ministers for formation.
* To recruit 3-4 new Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound.
* To incorporate the Leading Like Jesus Stewardship model into ministries.

**Concluding Remarks:** It is such a privilege for me to be in ministry with Msgr. Tom and my peers. I began my ministry at OMOS in July 2012 and am grateful for all I have learned and continue to learn as I serve in this parish.

As in the past, I invite you to give me any recommendations you might have to improve the ministries I co-ordinate.

As Chair of the CLC Core Group, Katie Hirschboeck, Ph.D. has submitted her report.