

Social Awareness Ministry Minutes of February 4, 2016

Attendees: Mike, Al, Michelle, Suzanne, Jacquie, Marjorie, Judy, Carolyn, Denise, Chris, Jo, Irma, Mariallyn, Alicia, Barb, Mary, JoAnn

1. Opening Prayer – Mike
2. Minutes: It was moved by Jacquie and seconded by Judy that the minutes be approved. Motion passed.
 - a. Mike stated that 6 potential members resulted from the Immigration Forum. Two attended the meeting and were warmly welcomed.
3. Refugee Ministry: This group met prior to the SAM meeting and reported that Fr. Larry was supportive of holding a forum next year regarding refugees. The group would like to have 20 parishioners volunteer to receive training in welcoming refugees. Ten people from SAM volunteered.
4. Updates
 - a. Casa Maria: Mike talked about improvements at Casa Maria such as park benches built and painted. A big improvement was the organization of clothing into bins. Al reported on volunteers who help at the center from 7:45 am to about 11:30. He stated that only 8 volunteers can be used each time the group visits.
 - b. Just Coffee: Al reported that Just Coffee will now offer a Reward Card with a free pound of coffee after 10 pounds are purchased. Just Coffee sold 86 pounds and donated 6 pounds during the past month. John Sherman donated 15 pounds to Casa Maria. The Bistro is now open at the Just Coffee plant in Aqua Prieta.
 - c. Manna Bags: This ministry sold 45 bags in January. They wished to clarify that that they are separate from Just Coffee, with different goals, but they seem to be grouped together.
 - d. Sr. Jose's Women's Center: Mike thanked all of the volunteers who helped make the Luncheon a success. The amount of money earned by the event is not yet known. He also reported that parents at a Charter School near the proposed new center have concerns about Sr. Jose's moving to that location.
 - e. Mike reported on a successful Immigration Forum which all agreed was very well presented. The group reviewed a summary of all the evaluations returned. A suggestion was made to video record the next Forum.
 - f. Volunteers at Migrant Detention Centers: Alicia spoke about the need at the Florence center and Denise talked about her experiences at Eloy. Possible needs would be books and magazines, letters, and legal advise. Teresita offered to have her students write letters since they are bilingual.
5. New Business/Other Concerns
 - a. Snack Pack Program for 2016-2017: Since the group did not reach its financial goal this year, plans were made for next year such as announcements from the pulpit, and signs in the narthex, prior to the collection weekend.
 - b. Habitat for Humanity: It was decided that we would not pursue this project.
 - c. Social Awareness Ministry Brochure: Suggestions were made for updating and revising the brochure to more closely match the work of the ministry. Mike made note of the suggestions.

- d. Irma expressed concern about the misunderstanding of the Islamic religion, which can result in prejudice. The group had a number of suggestions, including visiting a mosque or having a speaker come to talk about the religion. This topic will be put on the agenda for next month.

Next Meeting – Thursday, March 3 at 1 pm
The meeting closed with a prayer.
JoAnn Weston, Secretary, Pro Tem