

**Catholic Area Faith Community of Jesus Our Living Water
Area Service Committee Minutes**

November 5, 2013 @ 6:30 pm
Church of St. Patrick, Kandiyohi, MN

- I. Members present: Monica Amaral, Doug Wilkowske, Laura Brown, Helaine Bolter, and unable to attend Barb Stahl
- II. Evening began with group prayer, Vision, and remarks by Fr. Steve Verhelst.
- III. The Area Service Committee prepared a presentation on Homelessness in Kandiyohi County. Fr. Steve presented what is presently available for those that are homeless. There are two options that are being discussed at this time.

Safe Harbor: which is administrated by Heartland Community Action Agency and where the Church of St. Mary has offered financial support through the St. Mary Tithing Program. This program provides motel rooms for single persons, and family unit and also work with the people in helping them to seek employment, basic needs and etc.

The other option is called **Family Promise**. A number of churches in Kandiyohi County are in the process of organizing this program. In order for it to begin there is a need to have a commitment from 13" Host" churches to be a part of this program. At this time six churches have made a commitment. Some of the churches have partnered with another church as one. This program offers safe homelike shelter for families, within a church setting. With this program you can be a Host Parish, where the families would be at your facility for one week at a time, and would commit to hosting four times a year. The other option is to be a Supportive Parish, where you would work with another church and commit to helping with providing meals, volunteers and etc.

The DVD on Homelessness in Kandiyohi County was shared and discussion was held. Question from the committee to the group was, could we as an area faith community see ourselves as being involved with one of these options? Discussion and ideas were shared.

The Area Service committee suggested that a core group consisting of a representative from each of our worship sites be formed to meet with them to continue discussion and how to communicate and share with our parishes members about Homelessness in Kandiyohi County and the programs that are being explored and happening.

- IV. Discussion and information items:
1. Discussion on the bulletin corner “Did You Know”, for the month of December will be the Holiday Baskets. Also shared is that there will be a formation column in the weekly bulletin and there will be an opportunity to be a part of that
 2. Holiday Baskets. Was agreed that in our Area Faith Community we will work together on the distribution of Holiday Food Baskets in our area. Each of our worship sites will have the listing of item for the baskets on the “Tree Ornament”, and for the Warm Winter items on the “Stocking Ornament”. These will be distributed to all worship sites placed on each of our parishes Giving Trees, which will be up by the weekend of Nov. 30/Dec 1.
 3. Jail Ministry. Fr. Jim shared that he celebrates Mass at the Kandiyohi Jail on the first Friday of the month. Reported that the needs at the jail are being covered by volunteers from our area.
 4. Reported that the Bereavement Workshop was well received and the committee will be meeting this coming week to review.
- V. Future Agenda items to include: “Did You Know’; Homelessness; Holiday Baskets; Warm Winter items; Goals & Objectives.

Respectfully submitted,
Helaine Bolter