

## Human Concerns Minutes – 12/06/2011

Attendees – Ronan James, Mike Landry, Chris Linder.

This is to be a brief meeting with a core group of participants held during the parish pot luck activity. A general welcome was announced to everyone at the activity encouraging them to attend.

Minutes from the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Mission Statement for Human Concerns – The newly formed committee is attempting to find out what regulations and guidelines have been used in the past to determine if they should be kept in place or revisited. It was thought that all standing committees were asked to create a specific mission statement that would build on the parish mission statement but would better target the work of each committee. If those mission statements were generated, they are not able to be found. The committee feels that with the enormous amount of tasks that need to be addressed, that this be tabled until such time that our workload allows for us to decide if we need to pursue a mission statement specific to Human Concerns. We will work under the global mission statement of the parish to guide us in the interim.

Support of existing missions – The core group at this meeting did not have enough knowledge of all of the missions to make a decision for all of the current missions. The group did make the decision to temporarily continue the financial support of Sister Nachita at Juitiupon. Sister Nachita's ministry provides essential needs for the Catholic community for the Juitiupon parish. A letter will be drafted by Ronan and sent through Joe King or Julia Voss as interpreters to determine if withdrawing financial support at this time will cause Sister Nachita to abandon her ministry and leave Juitiupon. The letter will attempt to find out if Sister Nachita has plans to leave Juitiupon for personal reasons or if our continued financial support would influence her ministry for the people of Juitiupon. Until she is able to communicate her plans to us, we will continue to set aside the \$500 each month to be used by her for the needs of the parish.

Definition of terms – Social Justice, Community Organizers, and other terms have a multitude of meanings dependant on the group that is using them. For the purpose of the Human Concerns committee here at Saint John Neumann, those terms will be used by us to mean to treat and help all of God's children under the guidelines of the Catholic Church. We will not operate outside of the law but may choose to help change the law using peaceful protests and other resources at our disposal. Some examples were to assist illegal aliens to secure green cards and permanent citizenship. Senior citizens are struggling with essential prescriptions that they are not able to afford if they fall into the "doughnut hole" that are needed for them to continue living.

Standing committee for PICC – Partners in Christ Covenant has never been on an organization chart under any standing committee. It was begun by Joe Wanner and Rick Engen. It grew and prospered under the guidance of formal clergy from both communities. The committee reviewed both the Archdiocese and Parish handbooks for a Human Concerns committee and felt that the role of PICC is best defined under Human Concerns as an outreach program that extends into other faith communities and is already in place and functioning. It is tentatively included in the organizational chart for Stewardship. Stewardship has been contacted and agrees with the assignment to host them under

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Human Concerns. PICC provides humanitarian outreach, community service, education, and worship events that are best described in the Archdiocese Handbook for Human Concerns committees.

Committee members & Public relations – Father John has encouraged parishioners to become involved in both the Human Concern as well as the Stewardship committee. We need to keep our activities in front of parishioners to attract new members. We will use the bulletin as a forum to post Human Concern headlines as appropriate.

Incoming communication and outreach requests – Debbie Kabitzke mentioned to one of our members that she would be willing to monitor the mail box for Human Concerns. Requests come in that might be time sensitive and we need someone to track needs that may not be able to wait until our regular meetings. We will ask Debbie for her input and thoughts at the January meeting.

Communication – It was noted that we want to invite communication from all groups and/or individuals that are doing work that is related to Human Concerns. We will pursue this more fully as time goes on and our membership grows. The Saint Vincent de Paul group that is here at Saint John Neumann is a group that we need to develop a relationship with. They are a totally separate ministry operating under the guidelines of their Regional leadership. Ronan will contact Debbie Schaefer, their president, and ask that someone from their organization come to our meetings to help us better understand how we may be able to augment the resources of each other.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ronan James.