

## December 19, 2011 Council Meeting

A discussion was held on "Catholic Democrats ask Bishops to address poverty."

We had a discussion on the letter that had been sent to Archbishop Timothy Dolan to be read at the Bishops' Fall General Assembly. In the letter the Catholic Democrats were asking the Bishops, why was poverty not on the agenda? The Bishops were asked to contact their Federal and State Senators and Representatives to urge them to protect funding for the poor and to use the weight of their office as spiritual leaders, to speak out in support of the poor. Also they urged priests, in every Catholic parish in the country, during the Advent season, to give a homily on the role of the Church in being an advocate for the poor, including funding for programs that serve those most in need.

Julie reported on the children's Christmas program. The children in K through grade 5 had a program called "Three Wee Kings" and the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade sang songs.

The coffee social and dinner with the Visiting Team went well.

Advent Activities for the school children included:

Birthday bags for ECHO,

Help for the Pregnancy Helpline,

The adoption of several families for Christmas,

Birthday cards for the residents of St. Elizabeth

St. Nicks Day gifts

Our school enrollment is still a concern. The family Masses and Activities are continuing.

The Religious Ed program is going well. December began the monthly classes with Father Steve; he will meet with K-8 one Sunday and High School on a different Sunday each month.

A team from St. Mary's Press observed the classroom use of the Catholic Faith Handbook in the classroom.

The Religious Education adopted an ECHO family for Christmas.

Gifts were also bought and donated to a gift distribution held at St. John's Lutheran church for any needy families who were not adopted.

On December 10, Dan Bekta organized a day of bell ringing for the Salvation Army kettle. 11 students and 6 adults participated with 4 full kettles returned throughout the day.

December 18 marks the  $\frac{1}{2}$  way mark for the RE year.

Religious Ed children joined the school children in helping with the December family mass.

Classes resume on January 8, 2012.

Father Steve reported that our income from the contributions is holding on course. It is projected we will lose \$45,000 if we continue on this course.

The "Awakening Faith" project is designed to attract Catholics to come back to the church. All of the four Catholic Churches in Janesville are involved.

Father Steve said that the Lutheran Pastor in attendance at the new hospital, is very

co-operative. Father Steve and Sister Ruth will review hospital visiting with attention on the new hospital.

Father Steve spoke to all of us about our duties and suggested we stay in touch with parishioners and their involvement with their various ministries.

It was noted that a National Campaign called, Catholics Come Home, will launch on national television. This will be aired on various stations and at various times.

The Christmas Mass schedule will be: Three Masses on Christmas Eve, 4:00 - 6:00 - 10:00. In addition, one Mass on Christmas Day at 10:00. We discussed if one Mass is to be discontinued, which one this would be.

Our parish will again host the men's shelter from January 29 to February 4.

We will be taking a count of people at Mass during the Christmas Masses.

Respectfully submitted: Mary Lynn Fox