**Strangers No Longer Minutes: September 20th, 2022 St. Michael’s Church Room B**

**Attendance:**  Fiona Archer, Julie Watanabe, Pat Watanabe, Mary Lou LaTorre, Watoii Rabii,

Rose Pikor, Cyndi Malow, Sue Johnston, Donna Nesbitt, Pat Boland-Saoud

**Opening Prayer:**  Julie

**Movie:** “Mother Cabrini and the Heart of Jesus.” We had a discussion after watching the movie.

* Some of us had read the book titled the same as the movie.
* We compared the movie to the book. We noticed that there was more theology explained by various spiritual leaders than details of Mother Cabrini, which had been presented in the book. Some thought more details of her life should also have been in the movie. Various speakers in the movie gave much information describing how she implemented her passions to serve God in helping immigrants
* We discussed the attributes of Mother Cabrini and her involvement with immigrants and compared our practices of immigration today to those of her time.
* The movie explained the “Heart of Jesus”, it’s meaning and symbolism in the Church.

 **Discussion:** We discussed ways in which we can donate to an organization in Mother

Cabrini’s name. Julie will e-mail us some choices that we can vote on where to donate money.

* There is a Mother Cabrini Mission Foundation.
* We talked of devastated areas from weather (ex. Puerto Rico).
* We discussed Sr. Norma Pimentel’s needs at the Southern Border.

**Article in Bulletin:**  Donna and Rose will write two short articles to be put into the same weekly Messenger relating to immigration. Donna will write information about Mother Cabrini and Rose will write about Sr. Norma Pimentel and her visit to Michigan last June.

**Fall/Early Winter Projects:** We will soon be discussing details for once again working Christmas Stockings. Julie has spoken to Claudia about the boxes for the food boxes project and thinks Claudia would like to help. Cyndi reported that she spoke to Michelle Hayes about fund raising projects. Michelle said the Halloween Trunk or Treat project was an Ecumenical one and we should not take any part in fund raising with it (ex. raffle off baskets). Michelle also felt that we probably didn’t need any more fund raising projects. We discussed how Michelle has helped us when we needed money for our past projects and that might be all we need in the future.

**Update on Sister Val’s 50th Anniversary:** Pat found out that we had actually donated a $150 gift card to her to celebrate her 59th year, which pleased us all.

**Freedom House:**

* It will not be on the Giving Tree this year.
* Merceds Pergande has left and there is a new director.
* They will be hosting a “Welcome Home” fundraiser on October 1st. All day activities, with food, speakers (on immigration) will cost $30. They will also be offering a tour of the House for $75.

**SNL Organizational Update:** There will be an advocacy Assembly on Tuesday, November 15th. The central theme will be political advocacy, with stress on MI issuing drivers’ licenses. Place will take place in a church, which is TBD.

* Fundraising or dues have not been discussed.
* Bill O’Brien is now working part time. This will help with pay for another staff member.
* The year’s activities are being split into 3 parts.
* We were asked to invite politicians to our church to talk on immigration. Julie and the other members felt that with the make-up of our parishioners, we decided to decline, thinking it might not be productive.

**Zoom:** We decided to keep our meetings on Zoom since it is not only convenient, but some drive a long distance to get to the church. However, we now have only 40 minutes allowed on Zoom. We discussed keeping it at 40 minutes to see if we can get our agenda covered, or split up the meeting into two 40 minute sessions in the same evening. We will start with trying to keep it at 40 minutes to see how that works.

**Closing Prayer:** Cyndi

**Next Meeting:**  October 8th with Zoom

**Agenda:**  Julie **Minutes:**  Rose **Opening and Closing Prayer:** Sue

**Bulletin Article on Mother Cabrini:** Donna **Bulletin Article on Sr. Norma Pimentel:**  Rose

**Communication with Kathy Chadick (Bulletin)**: Julie

**Communication with Michelle Hayes (Facebook):** Fiona