**Strangers No Longer Zoom Meeting Minutes: February 15th, 2022**

**Attendance:** Sister Martha de la Torre,Donna Nesbitt, Cyndi Malow, Julie

Watanabe, Pat Watanabe, Rose Pikor, Sue Johnston, Mary Lou

Latorre

**Opening Prayer:**  Pat Watanabe

**Presentation from Mujeres Bajo la Proteccion de Dios:**

* Women from the Mujeres Group joined the meeting. They included

Soraya, Martha de la Torre, Daris Bartolon, Gricelda, Nancy, Marisol Sanchez and Segundo

* Some spoke in English and some used Sister Martha as a translator.

Each gave a personal message on their connection with our group and was very thankful for all our support with them. They shared information of their country and culture. They showed pictures of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Mexico along with the countries’ flags and pictures of their Cities. We were also shown a movie on a Mexican Ballet using You-tube.

**Organizational Updates:**

* On January 28th, there was a meeting with Ernest Cawvey from Macomb Community Action Agency. Every county has a community action committee which deals with education, food banks, health care, housing, etc. for immigrants. They have funds to work with. They do not require proof of residency for those needing help. In Macomb County, it seems as if the politicians shy away from immigration issues. This group might be a good resource to use for St. Michael’s parishioners’ needs and possibly for the Mujeres group.
* The Circle Support Leader Formation Series had its first meeting on January 22nd. They will meet with zoom on the last Saturday of each month from January to September from 10:00 to 11:00. Fiona gave a report. Julie, Pat, Cyndi and Rose attended. There was discussion on foundational building and responsibility for groups. Our SNL group at St. Michael’s has already done a lot with foundational building. Anyone is welcome.
* On February 5th there was a Zoom Fundraiser Meeting. The two women hired to direct our fundraising gave a tutorial in ways to approach to ask for donations for ads to be printed in a pamphlet. We will be asking for donations to be put in a pamphlet to raise money for our April 24th luncheon. Cyndi, Rose and Pat attended the Zoom meeting.

**Parish Update:**

* Christian Service update was reported by Cyndi Malow. The last meeting was held on January 20th. They are still working on using the “Principals of Catholic Social Teaching”. Michelle Hayes stated that this last edition of “Unleash the Gospel” deals with Evangelical Charity. St. Leo’s is putting “Ministers of Hospitality” on the giving tree to work with the floods downtown. Rice bowls will be given out on Ash Wednesday. Fr. Mike’s Mercy Education Project was successful. Last year the Easter baskets were initiated by SNL and some coordination with Christian Service. This was not on the agenda at this meeting. More discussion needed on how/ or if we coordinate Easter baskets. Next meeting will be this Thursday. There will be a bottle drive for McRest.
* Super Bowl of Caring (weekend of February 12th and 13th collected $2100 and SNL gets at least half of that or more.

**New/Continued Business for Circle:**

* Michelle Hayes and Father Mike have agreed to pay in full our $1000 dues for 2022.
* Fundraiser Luncheon: Pat Watanabe has been working on organizing the lunch on April 24th. She has booked Debbie Dingell as our keynote speaker. We would like for her to speak around 1:30. Lunch starts at 1:00. Pat will work on details asking whether she will bring staff and security with her, and whether she will be staying for lunch. Pat also has extended an invitation to Cardinal Joe Tobin who is very pro-immigration. She is waiting for a response from him. We would like to have a clerical presence at the luncheon.

Each parish in the Circles will have about 10-20 tickets to sell. We plan on about 300 to 500 tickets to sell. Tickets will sell at $25. Pat will send out the tickets. We keep track of the tickets and who has them and how many they have. Tickets can be donated for the Mujeres Group to use. So far we have 6 tickets for the Mujeres group. Unused tickets will be sent back to Cyndi and she will send out all of the collection to Bill O’Brien. Tickets should be returned by April 6th. The hall needs their lunch payment a week before the lunch. Our cost for lunch is $20, so we will make $5 per lunch.

We will also have baskets with various items for a raffle. Our group has decided to generate an “Italian Basket” with Italian products. Cyndi is generating a letter about the luncheon to be sent out. We will have a 50 page ad book for ad purchases which Bill O’’Brien is also monitoring.

* Easter baskets: We will be doing them this year and Cyndi will bring it up at Christian Service this Thursday with Michelle. We will make baskets for the Mujeres group and Sister Val, and possibly Freedom House. We might want to do more than 30 (maybe 40?) Sister Martha says we have 17 women the group and she will ask how many children they have. We are going to plan a Zoom meeting for more organizing with this. Cyndi, Sue, Rose and Donna offered to work on planning.
* **Our Lenten Communion Service:**

Our SNL Circle will be hosting a Communion Service on Thursday, March 31st at 7PM. Julie sent us a format which Deacon Franz had given her showing the different parts needed for the Service. Julie gave us the parts which would be necessary. Members from our group will take various parts at the service. We discussed which parts some of us might take, but more will be discussed about this at a later date. Deacon Franz is giving us ways we might want to change parts if we choose, such as, picking the gospel, various readings, etc. spoke at tonight’s meeting. Daris, who is a member of the Mujeres Group, has offered to give her testimonial at the Service. She will share her immigration journey. We have scheduled March 1st for a Zoom meeting to do more organizing for this Service.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 15th

**Agenda:** Julie

**Minutes:** Rose

**Both Opening and Closing Prayer:** Donna

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

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