**Strangers No Longer Zoom Minutes for April 19, 2022**

**Attendance:**  Julie Watanabe, Rose Pikor, Kathy Best, Sister Martha de la Torre, Fiona Archer Donna Nesbitt, Susan Johnston, Cyndi Malow, Mary Lou Latorre, Pat Watanabe, Watoii Rabii

Watoii Rabii introduced himself as a new participant. He is a Professor at Oakland University and works with studies on immigration issues. He enjoyed our Lenten Communion Service and looking forward to our April 24th luncheon.

**Opening Prayer:**  Fiona

**SNL Organizational Updates:**  The Leadership Formation Series meeting was on March 26. This is the last meeting until the end of May. The first two meetings dealt with how to set up structure. Bill O’Brien talked about having different roles set up, such as, secretary, chairperson, etc. We discussed how our Circle already works well and Sister Martha agreed. We already contribute to various roles within our own Circle. We felt that since we kept our meetings on Zoom through the Covid, it helped with our productivity.

**Christian Service Update:**  Cyndi reported the discussion from that meeting. The Almsgiving project collected $6,000. There were reports on all the Lenten projects at St. Michael’s. The Drug Take Back day will be on April 30th. The purple flags on the Church’s grounds represent deaths through addiction. Many projects are meeting in person, such as, Crafty Corner and SKIIP. Their Lenten Communion Service went well. May Crowning is to take place on May 10th. The Health Ministry is doing good work and has collected hygiene products. The Rice Bowls collection is done. There wasn’t much information about the Families of Parishes. Regardless, Michelle is going to continue with our events, and will still have elections for officers. The next meeting is this Thursday.

**Lenten Communion Service:** We discussed what went well and if there were any changes needed. We talked about maybe inviting the children choir and band again. Pat Watanabe mentioned that there had been a charge for their presence and it appeared that Sister Val picked up that fee. We agreed that we would have the funds to do that next year if needed. We are also encouraged to use the monies we are given through projects, such as from the Youth Group. Other suggestions were to possibly have another organization take part, such as, Freedom House or another type of refugee community to share information about their services at our next Lenten Communion Service. We also decided that we can now plan our program much earlier – maybe even in the Fall. We talked about next year possibly putting what our service will be about in the Bulletin. The Christian Service Committee always takes the last week and we might want to do the week before.

**Easter Basket Project:** Cyndi gave us a summary on donations. All baskets were signed up for donations and within 24 hours half were already taken. After the Christian Service meeting the rest were taken. There was also a great response to offer to take part in putting them together. Fifty baskets were put together. We decided that we would do the baskets again next year. We talked about how we should once again buy the cubes, the cellophane and bows. Cyndi was thinking that next year we might organize specific jobs in putting the baskets together. Sister Martha said that the baskets brought so much happiness when they were received. She has put pictures on Facebook as they received their baskets. Donna suggested about including a little note in each basket next year. It could be an Easter Blessing, a poem, etc. We could possibly address the note personally since we will have each child’s name. Mary Lou had put rosaries in her baskets this year, which is also a suggestion to be done for next year’s baskets.

**Sharing SNL Projects with our Church Community:** We discussed letting the community know about the three projects we have worked on: The Lenten Communion Service, the Easter Basket and our Luncheon Fundraiser. This would help to let others know the work that our Circle accomplishes. Kathy Best has offered to write an article to share information. She will be asking for input from others in the Circle for the article she’ll write. She will also check with Michelle Hayes to get her thoughts on us writing the article. Sister Martha suggested that we send a picture of our group to possibly put it in the Bulletin. She suggested that she send a screen shot of our group showing our Zoom meetings. We decided that we could do a screen shot when all members are present since some were not present.

**Fundraiser: April 24th 1:00-4:00.**  Julie will be at the Hall on Saturday from noon to 2:00 to set up for the luncheon the next day. We can set up everything except the balloons. Rose also offered to also be there at that time to help. We can start setting up at 11:00 on Sunday (balloon centerpieces), and Fiona offered to be there at 11:00 to help. Our Italian products have all been donated and ready to make our basket. Baskets will be set up on tables to be won through a 20/20 raffle. Our ticket sales and ads exceeded expectations. There are 10 to a table and there will be 39 tables. St. Michael’s tables will be 3 and 4. Cyndi will be at the ticket table with a translator. Bill O’Brien has designated May as offering month and there will be pledge envelopes on the tables to use for offerings. The subject of monies in our SNL organizational budget was discussed. Cyndi said she had talked to Bill O’Brien about the fact that some Circles haven’t paid their dues and compare them to our Circle which has. His comment was that he was aware. We were told that some of the monies were being used for staffing. Julie said that there are budget reports on how the monies are used, since we are required to show a budget to obtain any grant money. Cyndi mentioned that she had seen the budget and Julie suggested that if we also wanted to view the budget we can contact Bill. We decided risers were not necessary to use at the luncheon. SNL leadership is trying to distribute responsibilities at the luncheon. However, you can e-mail Rich and Kathy Faba if interested to help (rkfaba@aol.com) or let Julie know.

**Ideas For future Projects:** Julie suggested that we could be thinking about some new projects.

**Closing Prayer:**  Sue Johnston

**Next Meeting:**  May 17th at 7PM

**Agenda:** Julie

**Minutes:**  Rose

**Open/Closing Prayers:**  Donna

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

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

**Reflection piece on Communion Service planned for bulletin**