

## SOCIAL CONCERNS NEWS - May 15, 2014

The meeting on May 15th was attended by 19 members. Susan Mello and Susan Pritchard reported that the Anointing Mass on April 27th was well-attended. Sixty-two parish members were anointed with the Sacrament of the Sick and approximately fifty stayed afterwards for lunch. The meal was provided by D & J Caterers.

The possibility of using some of our accumulated funds to sponsor a number of children from our "basket families" for a two-week summer camp experience at Camp Kennedy at Fort Rodman was discussed. It was decided to enlist the guidance counselors from three New Bedford elementary schools to determine which children would be selected. These three schools were selected because of the notable help the counselors gave us with the baskets' projects. The camp times would be in July and August.

Plans were discussed for a possible personal care toiletries collection for homeless shelters, dependent upon approval by Father Rodney. A flyer would appear in the bulletin on June 29th explaining the details. Soaps, deodorants, sun screens, tooth brushes and paste, as well as white socks are needed. A list of 6 or 7 homeless shelters would benefit.

We have been asked to help with the Family Picnic that will be held in conjunction with the start of the Faith formation program in late August or September. A meeting has been set for June 9 in the evening to discuss the picnic. It will be open to all members of the parish.

The formation of a new non-profit service, Diapers and Things, was announced. The collection point will be at Our Lady of Guadeloupe Church in New Bedford. The center will carry diapers, clothing and baby equipment. Social Concerns hopes to sponsor a diaper drive in the fall.

A future service for Social Concerns might be visiting the sick in the area nursing homes. If members are interested, an informational training session would be held.

The next meeting was scheduled for June 19th at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center.