

Ministry of Care



November 2009

Dear Ministry of Care Neighborhood Reps and Area Coordinators,

Last year, at this time, the MOC had been an active ministry for about a year. We have just held our 2nd Annual Fall Fling! For those who were present and those who were unable to make it we want to thank all of you for your efforts at sharing the Gospel with your St. Max neighbors. Without you this ministry would not be possible.

Last year at the Fall Fling the group suggested several areas that would help grow this ministry. A primary theme centered on **Communication**. We want to update you on our actions to improve communications.

Get the word out about what MOC is!

We were able to incorporate several suggestions. There were a couple of Modern Saint articles, St. Max eNews articles, and mailings to all neighborhoods without a NR. We developed a St. Max MOC postcard to be used by anyone, the MOC postcard is now being sent to all new parishioners with the welcome letter including the name and phone number of the NR/AC or RC as appropriate. We encouraged Area Coordinators to communicate regularly with their NR's. T-shirts were designed and available for MOC folks to wear at parish-wide events. There was an ad in the St. Max Fish Fry placement. Hopefully many of you have seen the new poster that has been displayed many times.

We weren't able to incorporate some suggestions but we are always looking for ways to make these ideas happen- a "push" communication method of communicating- like a blog or yahoo group. Thanks to Amy Mackey for recommending a blog and to Jane Rowland for showing us how to set up and use a yahoo group. This had a lot of advantages in that it provided a space to be able to share info, events, and allowed anyone in the group to share. However, in our small test group the issues included: not everyone uses yahoo and there were issues using if you didn't want to have a yahoo account, it is a pull vs. push info system meaning everyone needs to sign on to view the info and if this is something extra folks wouldn't do it. Finally, not everyone is comfortable with these new fangled tools. The idea is great- just haven't found the right medium yet. In the meantime we use emails generated at the parish office and mailings to MOC or parish wide as needed.

We were unable to get the timing right to have a personal appeal from the pulpit in the last year. We haven't approached Fr. Geoff yet on this although he has mentioned MOC without being prompted! We have some additional opportunity in this area.

Let's hear stories about times when MOC has been a service.

In the articles written in the Modern Saint some examples of situations have been shared without sharing names (in some cases). Since we began as a ministry 2 years ago there have been many examples of families appreciating prayers and meals from members of the MOC. Many times these are small enough needs that they are handled within the neighborhood. There are also larger examples where not only is the need longer than a

couple weeks but we haven't had a NR or AC in place so the entire MOC has responded in such generous ways. We know the families have greatly appreciated the support.

In the next year we will continue to grow our Ministry as we still only have about a 60% coverage of the Parish. We will continue our efforts at better communication within the parish and within the Ministry. We will continue to serve our fellow parishioners.

Christy Burke was able to provide a wonderful website to help out with planning and organizing people to take meals when needed. The website is **www.foodtidings.com**. This can be used by anyone- for a small group to plan a meal schedule or for a parish wide group. Feel free to use. Thanks to Christy for this suggestion.

Thank you for your efforts and support of the Ministry of Care. You have truly made a difference. We would like to give you a small token of our appreciation. For those who were not at the Fall Fling, we have enclosed a card to remind you of who is with you always. *We know all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. – Romans 8:28*

God Bless,

The Ministry of Care Core Team