

## St. Sebastian/St. Vincent Social Justice Ministry

Meeting Minutes, Sunday, April 24, 2022

Members Present: Anne Burris, Harry Skeen, Linda Skeen, Carolyn Varner, Mary Yanko, Mary Benzie, Mary Tschantz, Dave Tschantz

Prayer: Pope Francis's "Prayer of Peace", Carolyn

General Session: Mary Yanko led the discussion of Pope Francis' *Fratelli Tutti* Chapter 7

- Pope Francis is calling all of us to eradicate war and strive for everlasting peace.
- Propaganda machines are painting a false picture of the current war in Ukraine to the Russian people and thereby allowing autocratic dictatorship to carry the death and destruction forward.
- Wars are justified by revenge and historical retracting by some world leaders who desire to gain lost power.
- Negotiation requires communication; common ground can be found if parties are willing to compromise to get there.
- Society has a responsibility to work towards peace and prosperity for the common good of all humanity.
- Conflict has a negative connotation when viewed as aggression but, diversity and conflicting ideas can be creative. Conflicting views can be resolved with discussion and working toward common goals.
- Frank discussions enable us to strive for peace. Kindness without honesty will hinder forward progress.
- Just War Theory is valid for defending ourselves but not for un-provoked aggression.
- Current media can de-sensitize us to war but, at the same time we are able to see up-close the human destruction.
- South Africa reconciliation was a change of power that has moved their country forward in a positive way.
- Juvenile justice (restorative) is based on community understanding.
- We cannot tolerate "cancel culture" i.e., grow accustomed to avoiding history. Future generations must learn from true history – the good, bad, ugly.
- The death penalty does not solve our crime problem and does not align with Catholic social teaching. Other societies (European countries) have a more rehabilitative approach which puts the responsibility on both the individual and the justice system to help those in prison prepare for a better life after incarceration.

Minutes: The March Minutes were approved; they will be placed on file and made available for distribution to parish websites.

St. Vincent:

1. New seminarian intern starting August
2. Social Justice – Friendship Weekend/Voter Registration Weekend, September 3&4

St. Sebastian:

No Report

Other:

1. The Interfaith Justice Alliance Series in March was well attended. Dr. James L. Knight was the guest speaker.
2. Urban farming with "high tunnels" is being investigated as a possible initiative that could be sponsored by STV Parish.

Catholic Commission Update:

1. Akron-area Ohio Death Penalty abolition advocacy events: Our Akron state anti-DP coalition has three excellent speakers with events set for May/June: Akron NAACP on Thursday, May 19, and Fairlawn Unitarian Universalist on Tuesday, June 21.

Announcements:

1. May 6th - First Friday Club – Bob DiBiasio, Sr. Vice President, Public Affairs, Cleveland Guardians  
Our Lady of Cedars, 507 South Cleveland-Massillon Road (Doors open at 11:00am)

Next meeting: **Sunday, May 15**, following the 8:30AM liturgy at St. Vincent. Discussion of *Fratelli Tutti*, Chapter 8 "Religions at the Service of Fraternity in Our World". Harry will lead the discussion.  
Prayer/Treat: Mary Tschantz