

**Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church**  
**Social Justice and Caring Committee**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday, January 5, 2017**

Present: Martha Arko, Sr. Judy Chiodo, Anna DeCrans, Kendall Doom, Bill Dorgan, Carmen Johnson, Christine Malec (minute writer), Margaret Malec, Mary Tacheny and Julianne (Jules) Wojcik

**New Committee Member**

Those present welcomed Julianne (Jules) Wojcik as a new committee member.

**We Care Campaign**

Chris distributed the results of the “We Care Campaign” held the weekend of October 29 - 30, 2016, that Parish Administrator, Mike Lentz, had given to her. A total of \$3,255.01 was raised. Individually, the following amounts were raised for the three options chosen for the campaign:

- **Headwaters Relief Organization** - a Minnesota-based, non-profit disaster relief group that organizes volunteers to support the cleanup and rebuilding needs of families and communities affected by natural disasters - \$1,374.67,
- **Hogar Santa Cruz** - an orphanage/foster home founded by Holy Cross Brother Donald Kuchenmeister in Santiago Chile, (Donald is the brother of parishioner Rita Kuchenmeister.) - \$937.67 and
- the **Salvation Army Heatshare** program - a voluntary, non-governmental program that helps low and moderate income families pay their energy bills - \$942.67.

\$1,127.00 of the total amount came from the loose bills and coins from the collection.

Eighteen “We Care Campaign” envelopes were used.

Chris announced that the next “We Care Campaign” will be held the weekend of March 4 - 5, 2017.

**Possible Earlier Meeting Time**

The members discussed the possibility of changing the start time of the committee meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. After a brief discussion, it was decided to keep the start time at 7:00 p.m.

**Committee Webpage**

The members discussed the possibility of creating a committee webpage that could be posted on the parish’s website. They decided the webpage could describe the committee,

list the projects that the committee sponsors and provide an opportunity for parishioners who do not use envelopes to donate to the “We Care Campaign” electronically. Chris said that she would ask the parish Communications Specialist, Thea Munoz, if she could assist in creating the webpage if the committee members provided her with the text for it.

### **Committee Logo**

The committee members asked Carmen for an update on her efforts to recreate the committee’s logo. Carmen said she has completed a draft of the revised logo and will bring a copy of it to the next meeting.

### **Human Trafficking**

The committee members discussed various issues related to human trafficking:

- Mary and Sr. Judy told the committee that January is Human Trafficking Awareness month. Sr. Judy distributed a “Daily Prayer to End Human Trafficking” sheet to interested committee members which contains a month’s worth of prayers focused on this topic.
- Mary informed the committee that February 8<sup>th</sup> is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of human trafficking. She stated that she has a 58-minute movie entitled “Two Suitcases: The Story of St. Josephine Bakhita” that tells the story of this saint’s life, describing how she was sold into slavery many times as a child, was led to God by a group of sisters and eventually became Sudan’s first saint. Mary suggested that the parish show the movie followed by a discussion about human trafficking. The committee members felt this might be a less threatening way to expose parishioners to this topic. Mary volunteered to call the parish office to see if Brioschi Hall or the Founders’ Room is available around the time of this saint’s feast day. Mary will also vet the movie to determine if it is appropriate for all ages.
- The committee members discussed the possibility of placing quotes from Pope Francis related to the topic of human trafficking in the table stands in Brioschi Hall during this Lent’s fish fry.
- The committee members agreed they are still in favor of hosting a presentation in the fall of 2017 regarding human trafficking issues related to events such as the Super Bowl. They decided they would like this event to:
  - emphasize that there are various forms of human trafficking - such as debt bondage, forced labor, involuntary servitude, sexual exploitation etc.
  - provide statistics to parishioners illustrating the severity of this problem - especially in the state of Minnesota,
  - include having somebody share his/her personal story of being a victim of human trafficking and
  - give parishioners information regarding how they can get involved in working towards the prevention of human trafficking.

Sr. Judy volunteered to gather information/statistics on the topic and to help find a speaker for the event.

### **Sanctuary Church**

Chris mentioned she had spoken to pastor Fr. Mike Byron about the possibility of having him and various committee members meet with Dan Evans, a parishioner from St. Mary of the Lake in White Bear Lake and a member of ISAI AH, to discuss the possibility of St. Pascal's providing sanctuary to immigrants who may be in danger of being deported once the new president takes office or supporting the churches that do. Chris stated that Fr. Mike told her he is willing to meet about this issue and suggested that Dan send him an e-mail about this. Chris said that Dan did send an e-mail to Fr. Mike about this but she has not heard anything about this since. Chris stated that she will ask Fr. Mike about this.

### **Refugee Resettlement**

Chris reported that she had received an e-mail from Kim Roering, the parish's Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, stating that Kim has been working with the Justice and Outreach Coordinator at Guardian Angels, Suzanne Bernet, to determine ways that the two parishes and other neighboring churches can collaborate and promote each others' activities in the areas of faith formation and social justice. Kim said that Suzanne informed her that Guardian Angels is working with Lutheran Social Services in the area of refugee resettlement and asked if St. Pascal's would be interested in getting involved in this as well.

Kim stated that she asked Fr. Mike about this and he said that he is open to this and that he feels the Social Justice and Caring Committee and staff would be good places to vet the idea. Kim stated that she will be meeting with Suzanne soon and will ask her for additional information about this effort. The committee members decided to table this discussion until additional information is received.

### **Donation Closet**

Mary informed the committee members that the parish donation closet has become quite full with contributions to The Listening House. She said that she has been delivering the Joseph's Coat donations but she is uncertain who has been doing this for The Listening House. She stated she has an idea of who this volunteer is and will investigate this further. She said that, in the meantime, she will make deliveries to both places.

### **Strategic Planning**

In a continuation of the committee's strategic planning efforts to get the parish more involved in social justice-related activities on the eastside of St. Paul, Anna reported that she had contacted the organizations chosen at the last meeting and asked their input on

what they feel are the greatest needs on the eastside. She received the following responses:

- the **Boys and Girls Club** - support for the anti-bullying program for men it is working on with the University of Minnesota,
- the **Hmong American Partnership** - support for the Minnesota Family Investment Program that assists families with children meet their basic needs - with cash and food assistance,
- the **Salvation Army** - food shelf assistance,
- **St. Paul Youth Services** - youth education and
- **180 Degrees** - mental health rehabilitation.

Anna stated that she was unable to connect with the **Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties**, another one of the eastside organizations chosen at the last meeting.

The committee members discussed the possibility of having an eastside focus for the March “We Care Campaign,” choosing several of the above-listed organizations as options.

### **“A Franciscan Blessing” Prayer**

Bill distributed copies of “A Franciscan Blessing” prayer containing social justice-related themes that was included in a publication that he read recently. The committee members liked the prayer and thought it would be good to share it with the parish via a bulletin announcement or insert (as long as its source was cited). They decided to ask Fr. Mike if he would be okay with this appearing in the bulletin. Bill volunteered to speak to Fr. Mike about this.

### **Bulletin Insert Write-up**

Chris mentioned that she and Bill worked together to write the committee description that appeared in the insert describing various parish activities/groups that was contained in the December 25, 2016, bulletin.

Chris reminded the committee members that, at a previous meeting, they had discussed writing a bulletin announcement or insert describing the committee as part of their effort to communicate with the parish about what the committee does. She asked if they wanted to pursue this effort in light of the fact that a description of the committee had just been included in the Christmas day bulletin insert. The committee members agreed to delay creating an additional announcement/insert until a later time.

### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, February, 2, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Founders’ Room at church