

**Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church**  
**Social Justice and Caring Committee**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday, February 2, 2017**

Present: Martha Arko, Kendall Doom, Bill Dorgan, Christine Malec (minute writer), Margaret Malec, Jane Marie Sulzle, Mary Tacheny and Julianne Wojcik

**New Committee Member**

Those present welcomed Jane Marie Sulzle as a new committee member.

**We Care Campaign**

The committee members discussed various options for the “We Care Campaign” that will be held the weekend of March 4 - 5, 2017. Some of the options discussed include:

- the **East Side Learning Center** - an organization that provides free one-on-one reading tutoring for St. Paul students in kindergarten through third grade,
- the **Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota** - a non-profit organization located in St. Paul that provides legal assistance to low-income immigrants and refugees in Minnesota, works to educate Minnesota communities and professionals about immigration matters and advocates for state and federal policies which respect to the universal rights of immigrants,
- the **KNOM Radio Mission** - the oldest Catholic radio station in the United States which broadcasts from Nome, Alaska, located 100 miles south of the Arctic Circle and transmits news, weather and Catholic programming (such as mass and family prayer) to dozens of isolated communities in the Alaskan bush that rarely have access to a priest and
- the **Progressive Baptist Church Fishes and Loaves Food Shelf** - located within Progressive Baptist Church at 1501 Burns Avenue in St. Paul which provides emergency food items to anybody in need.

It was decided that the, the Immigrant Law Center, the KNOW Radio Mission and the Progressive Baptist Church Fishes and Loves Food Shelf would be chosen as the options for the March campaign.

The committee members discussed the possibility of choosing Brittany’s Place, a shelter located in St. Paul that ministers to victims of sex trafficking, as one of the October “We Care Campaign” options due to the fact that this campaign will take place close to the time when the committee’s presentation on human trafficking issues related to events such as the Super Bow will take place.

## **Human Trafficking**

- Mary reported that she reserved the Founders' Room after each of the masses on Sunday, February 19, 2017, for the showing of the 58-minute movie entitled "Two Suitcases: The Story of St. Josephine Bakhita" which centers on the life of this patron saint of human trafficking. She said that parishioners will be invited to bring their Fellowship Sunday refreshments to eat while viewing the movie and will then be asked to participate in a brief discussion on the topic of human trafficking.

Mary asked if any committee volunteers would be willing to attend these events and participate in the discussions. Chris, Jane Marie and Julianne volunteered to be present at one or both of the events.

Mary showed the committee members some paper plates upon which she had written facts about the topic of human trafficking and asked them if they could be used at the movie event. The committee members liked the idea of using the paper plates.

Mary mentioned that she submitted announcements regarding this event for the February 5<sup>th</sup> and February 12<sup>th</sup> bulletins. She said that she had viewed the February 5<sup>th</sup> bulletin on-line but did not see her announcement. Mary stated that she will call Thea Munoz, the parish Communications Specialist, and ask if the announcement had been included in the bulletin as an insert.

Mary passed around some other resources that she has on St Josephine Bakhita - a book entitled Bakhita: From Slave to Saint by Roberto Italo Zanini and another longer movie with the same name.

- Bill distributed a document that he had drafted on the topic of sex trafficking. The committee members discussed the possibility of using this as a bulletin insert in the fall, closer to the time when their presentation on human trafficking issues related to events such as the Super Bow will take place. The members agreed to review the draft document and to offer their feedback on it at the March committee meeting.
- The committee members debated the possibility of hosting a faith formation event on human trafficking at a venue that ministers to victims of human trafficking - such as at Brittany's Place; nothing was decided about this suggestion.

## **Social Justice Library**

Mary suggested that the committee start a social justice-themed library from which parishioners could borrow items on the topic. She said she would be willing to donate the above-referenced movies and book to help get the library started. The committee members liked the idea.

### **Donation Closet**

Mary announced that the Listening House has recently moved and is temporarily not accepting donations. Mary also stated that she found out who has been making deliveries to Joseph's Coat.

### **Sanctuary Church**

Chris said that she and fellow committee members Kendall and Margaret had met with pastor Mike Byron and Dan Evans, a parishioner from St. Mary of the Lake in White Bear Lake and a member of ISALAH, to discuss the possibility of St. Pascal serving as a sanctuary church or supporting another congregation serving in this manner. (ISALAH is working to find sanctuary churches in response to the possible increased deportation of illegal immigrants as a result of the current presidential administration.) Chris reported that Fr. Mike is open to supporting another sanctuary church but that he did not think it would be possible for the parish to serve as a sanctuary church. Chris stated that Fr. Mike would like some time to determine the best way of broaching this subject with parishioners. The possibility of hosting some listening sessions to discuss the issue with parishioners was suggested. Dan agreed to send Fr. Mike a list of the congregations that have agreed to serve as sanctuary churches.

### **Refugee Resettlement**

Chris said that she has not heard back from Kim Roering, the parish's Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, regarding possible plans to collaborate with Guardian Angels parish in working with Lutheran Social Services in the area of refugee resettlement.

### **Women's Advocates**

Chris stated that Fr. Mike had given her a packet that the parish received from Women's Advocates, an organization that works to eliminate domestic violence in the lives of women, children and families. Chris said the packet contained some brochures regarding the Women's Advocates shelter for those fleeing from domestic abuse and a letter asking the parish to make the brochures available to those who may be in need of the shelter's services.

### **Fish Fry**

The committee members discussed their plans to place quotes from Pope Francis regarding the topic of human trafficking on the tables in Brioschi Hall during this Lent's fish fry. They decided to use tri-fold table tents - putting the Pope Francis quotes on one side and myths about human trafficking on another. Jane Marie stated that she would find the quotes from Pope Francis. Kendall and Mary agreed to gather the myths. Julianne volunteered to format the document. The committee members decided to put the table tents together and place them on the tables in Brioschi Hall at the March meeting.

## **Next Meeting**

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

NOTE: (from email)

FYI

At our meeting Thursday we discussed two main current social justice issues at great length: human trafficking and immigration. Our conversation kept crossing back and forth between them.

In the end we did decide to focus our Lenten table toppers on immigration not trafficking.  
(Very easy to mix up)

Jane already researched the quotes and Kendall and I met Sat. to look at resources and divide up our tasks.

So...to recap, and be on the same page, it's IMMIGRATION :)

M.T.