

Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church
Social Justice and Caring Committee
Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday, May 4, 2017

Present: Martha Arko, Anna DeCrans, Bill Dorgan, Carmen Johnson, Christine Malec (minute writer), Margaret Malec, Mary Tacheny and Julianne Wojcik

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Margaret reported that fifty-seven pints were donated at the American Red Cross blood drive held at the parish on Monday, April 17, 2017, and that the goal was sixty pints. She stated that the next blood drive will be held at the parish on Monday, July 10, 2017.

Martha and Mary volunteered to work at future blood drives if needed.

Human Trafficking

- **Bulletin Insert:** Bill mentioned that he added a sentence to the committee's insert on human trafficking regarding the need to provide long-term support to the victims of this crime. He said that pastor Fr. Mike Byron gave his final approval of the insert. Bill also stated that he had spoken to parish Communication Specialist, Thea Munoz, and she informed him that the insert will be included in the May 14, 2017, bulletin. The committee members discussed the possibility of having Fr. Mike speak about the insert or the issue of human trafficking in a future bulletin column or homily. The committee members briefly talked about preparing another insert that would be put in the bulletin closer to the human trafficking presentation in the full which could contain information regarding the signs of human trafficking.
- **Possible Presentation Speaker:** Chris reported that she had received an e-mail from absent committee member, Sr. Judy Chiodo, who informed her that she may have a possible speaker for the committee's human trafficking presentation that is being planned for the fall - a woman named Marie Rivard who works to raise awareness on the topic of human trafficking and is a member of one of the committees working on the human trafficking issues associated with the Super Bowl being held in Minneapolis in 2018. Chris said that Sr. Judy mentioned that Marie is willing to speak at the parish on the topic and that she is open to attending a committee meeting. The committee members decided they would like to invite Marie to an upcoming meeting. Chris will ask Sr. Judy if she would invite Marie to the next committee meeting in July.
- **Senator Amy Klobuchar:** Mary mentioned that she had spoken to Fr. Mike and he gave his approval to have the committee invite Senator Amy Klobuchar to participate in the human trafficking presentation that will be held in the fall and/or to obtain her permission to use the videotaped message that she had made on the subject that was part of the Kelly Distinguished Scholar Lecture series talk given by Rachel Lloyd, the founder of the Girls Education and Mentoring Services.

Women's Advocates

Chris announced that she finalized a date for the presentation on domestic violence that will be given by Meg Royer from Women's Advocates, a shelter for women and children escaping domestic violence. She stated it will take place on Tuesday, May 30, 2017, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in Brioschi Hall.

Chris passed around a copy of the PowerPoint presentation that Meg will be using as well as a copy of the flyer that Meg developed advertising the event.

Chris said that Meg informed her that she owned a laptop computer but asked if the parish had one available for her use. Chris stated that she told Meg that she would need to find out if one would be available. During the meeting, Juls sent an e-mail to Kim Roering, the staff member in charge of faith formation at the parish, and asked her if the parish had a laptop that could be used for the presentation. Juls said that Kim responded to her stating that the parish does have a laptop available and that one should contact Thea Munoz to reserve it. It was mentioned that this laptop may not work properly so Chris will ask Meg if she would be willing to bring her own.

The committee members decided to provide treats at the event. Anna, Carmen, Chris and Margaret volunteered to bring some.

The committee members decided to provide child care themselves during the presentation. Chris will ask Meg Royer to add that child care will be provided on the flyer.

The committee members agreed to meet at 6:30 p.m. on the night of the event to get things prepared for it.

Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul Annual Assembly

Chris reported that she received an e-mail from Thea Munoz containing an invitation to the Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul Annual Assembly taking place on Thursday, May 11, 2017. Chris stated that Thea said that, although no one is required to attend, the parish would like to have somebody there to represent St. Pascal's since the parish is a voting member of Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul. Thea stated that Fr. Mike is unable to attend and was wondering if a committee member would be willing to go. Anna and Mary agreed to attend.

We Care Campaign

Chris reminded the committee members that the next We Care Campaign will be held the weekend of June 3 - 4, 2017. They discussed the following options:

- the **Hmong American Partnership** - a non-profit organization founded to serve the Hmong community in Minnesota by improving the lives of individuals and families through culturally sensitive social services and by focusing on empowering the refugee and immigrant community by moving its clients out of poverty towards social and financial prosperity,

- **People Serving People** - an organization that helps homeless and at-risk children and families manage crisis situations,
- **Smile Network International** - an organization that provides life-altering reconstructive surgeries and related healthcare services to impoverished children and adults in developing countries and
- **The Sheridan Story** - an organization in the Twin Cities area that fights child hunger by providing a weekend supply of food to hungry children whose only meals may be the breakfasts and lunches given to them at school.

The committee members chose the Hmong American Partnership, Smile Network International and The Sheridan Story.

Sanctuary Church

Mary briefed the committee members on the presentation on sanctuary churches held at St. Mary of the Lake on May 3, 2017, that she and absent committee member, Ray Muetzel, attended. She said the speakers, Fr. Dan Griffith, the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and Michele McKenzie from The Advocates for Human Rights, were good. She stated they discussed the differences between charity (direct aid to those in need) and justice (working so all people receive their due in right relationship with God and neighbor) and that social justice transcends political ideology.

Mary distributed copies of the following documents that were handed out at the meeting:

- a “Why Don’t Unauthorized Migrants Come Here Legally?” Issue Briefing Series, Issue #1 from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops,
- a “Catholic Church’s Position on Immigration Reform” document from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, dated August 2013 and
- a reflection on the call to treat migrants and refugees as Christ that was originally posted on Father James Martin’s public Facebook page.

Mary stated that she and Ray had hoped to learn additional information regarding sanctuary churches - such as how those given sanctuary are chosen, whether some type of vetting process is used, and, if so, what this is etc. She said that she was informed that some members of sanctuary church were in attendance at the meeting but that they did not offer any input.

Mary stated that she and Ray did learn that Saint Thomas More Catholic Church in St. Paul will be serving as a sanctuary church. Since not much additional information was learned at the meeting about sanctuary churches, she and Ray thought it would be a good idea to ask Saint Thomas More parish how other churches could assist it as it serves as a sanctuary church. The committee members agreed with this idea. Carmen and Mary volunteered to look into this further.

Minnesota Catholic Conference

Mary mentioned that she received a March 2012 issue of *Spotlight* entitled “Immigration: Unlocking the Gate in Our Hearts” from the Minnesota Catholic Conference in response to her request for information on the framework for social justice in the archdiocese. The committee members were disappointed that the information was so outdated - especially in light of the current issues regarding the topic of immigration taking place in the country.

Holy Thursday Collection

Chris reported that the Holy Thursday collection was donated to the Catholic Charities Dorothy Day Emergency Food pantry.

Social Justice Library

Chris and Mary informed the members that they will be meeting to go through the books stored in the room near the staff lounge to determine if any would be appropriate to add to the social justice library the committee is forming.

Chris stated that Mary submitted an annual disbursement request for funds from the parish’s Women’s Club to use for purchasing items for the social justice library. However, due to a discrepancy between the actual disbursement request due date and the due date that was listed on the Women’s Club webpage on the parish’s website, her submittal was received too late. Therefore, Mary withdrew the request.

Bulletin Board

Mary asked the members if they would be willing to update the committee bulletin board with social justice-related items from mid-May through June. The committee members agreed to update the bulletin board.

Listening House

Mary mentioned that she will be unable to deliver donations to the Listening House for a period of time in the near future but that she will find a substitute for herself.

Table Tents

The committee members discussed the whereabouts of the tri-fold table tents they put together containing information on the topic of immigration that they placed on the tables in Brioschi Hall during Lent. It was determined that the table tents were saved in a box.

Next Meeting

It was decided that, due to scheduling conflicts, a meeting will not be held in June. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, July 13, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Christine Malec.