

Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church
Social Justice and Caring Committee
Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday, August 3, 2017

Present: Anna DeCrans, Bill Dorgan, Christine Malec (minute writer), Margaret Malec, Mary Weyandt and Julianne Wojcik

We Care Campaign

Chris informed the committee members that former Parish Administrator, Mike Lentz, sent her the results of the We Care Campaign that was held the weekend of June 17 - 18, 2017. A total of \$3,359.05 was raised. Individually, the following amounts were raised for the three options chosen for the campaign:

- 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 - \$1,091.35,
- **Smile Network International** - an organization that provides life-altering reconstructive surgeries and related healthcare services to impoverished children and adults in developing countries - \$1,041.35 and
- **The Sheridan Story** - an organization in the Twin Cities area that fights 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 - \$1,226.35.

\$1,119.99 of the total amount came from the loose bills and coins from the collection.

Thirty-one “We Care Campaign” envelopes were used.

Chris announced that the next “We Care Campaign” will be held the last weekend of October 2017. She asked the committee members to begin thinking of possible options for this campaign. She said that the committee should decide these options at the meeting in September.

1st Annual Eastside Community Peace Celebration/Community Meal

Chris stated that pastor Fr. Mike Byron had forwarded an e-mail to her containing a link to an “East Side neighbors starting peaceful traditions” article that appeared in the *LillieNews* on July 30, 2017, (at 12:00 a.m.) reporting on the 1st Annual Eastside Community Peace Celebration that was held at the Battle Creek Recreation Center on July 22, 2017. She said that the article describes the event and mentions that “a second community meal is being planned for mid-November, to be hosted at St. Pascal Baylon Church.” Chris reported that she asked Fr. Mike whether any group from the parish or school was working on this event. She stated that he informed her that the parish is still in the process of determining a date for the meal, that St. Pascal’s will just be serving as the venue for the event but that there may be an opportunity for

the parish to assist with hospitality. Chris recommended that the committee members keep themselves informed about this event to determine if they could assist with the hospitality.

Human Trafficking

Various human trafficking-related issues were discussed:

- **Human Trafficking Presentation:** The committee members discussed the presentation on human trafficking they would like to host in the fall. They decided to have it on a Thursday evening toward the middle or end of October. They decided they should reserve Brioschi Hall for the event. Margaret volunteered to contact Thea Munoz to check on the availability of Brioschi Hall on Thursdays in October.

The committee members discussed various possibilities for what the evening could include - such as presenting information on the topic, sharing stories from victims of human trafficking, explaining the connection between human trafficking and large sporting events such as the upcoming Super Bowl taking place in Minneapolis in 2018, providing some action items that participants could do in response to the topic - such as contacting their legislators regarding human trafficking-related legislation, volunteering at local organizations that minister to victims of human trafficking (e.g., Brittany's Place) etc.

The committee members continued discussing finding a speaker for the presentation. Chris reminded them that Meg Royer from Women's Advocates (a shelter for women and children escaping domestic violence) informed her that this organization also has a "Human Trafficking 101" presentation that she would be willing to make at the parish. Some of the committee members who were present at the "Domestic Violence 101" presentation that Meg gave shared that they thought she was a very good speaker. The committee members agreed they are open to having Meg give the presentation. Chris volunteered to contact Meg to see if she or another member of Women's Advocates could give the presentation. The committee members decided that if Meg or a coworker of hers do agreed to give the presentation, they would like to meet with this person to discuss what they would like the presentation to address.

The committee members spoke about advertising the event via Facebook (in addition to using bulletin announcements/inserts, posters and pulpit announcements) in order to reach those in the parish/community who prefer to obtain their information via social media.

The committee members discussed the possibility of providing childcare at this event. They noted that those providing the childcare need to have taken the Virtus training required by the archdiocese. Bill agreed to ask parish Faith Formation staff member, Kim Roering, about the requirements for childcare volunteers. Julianne volunteered to contact Katie Hemsworth, the parishioner who provides childcare in the parish nursery during mass to see if she would be available to provide childcare during the event.

- **Bulletin Insert:** Bill reported that he met with Fr. Mike to ask his input on having the insert authored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (with one side dealing with the topic of human trafficking and the other side with immigration) placed in a future bulletin. He said that Fr. Mike is fine with this. Bill stated that he spoke to parish Communication Specialist, Thea Munoz, regarding when this insert could be placed in the bulletin. He said Thea would like to wait until the parish's Summerfest event has taken place due to the fact that between now and the event, there will be many Summerfest-related items appearing in the bulletin. Bill stated that Thea also informed him that she would like to see if St. Pascal's could obtain copies of this insert from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops instead of the parish having to make copies of it. The committee members decided they are fine with delaying having the insert placed in the bulletin until a later time.
- **Handout:** Bill distributed copies of a "Warning Signs of Sex Trafficking" handout created by Shared Hope International. The top half of the handout gives information on the warning signs of sex trafficking and the bottom half provides telephone numbers for various organizations to whom one could report a tip or connect with anti-trafficking services. The committee members discussed using a similar layout for a handout of their own - containing information about human trafficking on the top and providing the contact information of Minnesota legislators on the bottom or advertising the human trafficking presentation on the top and listing signs of human trafficking or local organizations that minister to victims of human trafficking on the bottom. The committee members determined that if they decide to use the handout to advertise the event, they could distribute these to parishioners as they are leaving mass one weekend prior to the event.
- **Possible Postcard Campaign:** The committee members discussed the possibility of having a human trafficking-related postcard campaign during the 2018 legislative session - depending on whether any legislation regarding this topic is debated during the session. If human trafficking-related legislation were to be discussed during the session, postcards addressed to local legislators could be made available for parishioners to sign after mass and the completed postcards could be mailed to the legislators by the parish.

Next Meeting

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