

**Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church  
Social Justice and Caring Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday, September 7, 2017**

Present: Anna DeCrans, Kendall Doom, Bill Dorgan, Christine Malec (minute writer), Margaret Malec, Jane Marie Sulzle, Mary Weyandt and Julianne Wojcik

Guest: Meg Royer from Women's Advocates (See below for a description of this organization.)

**"Human Trafficking 101" Presentation**

**Date/Time:**

Chris reported that, as decided at the last committee meeting, she contacted Meg Royer from Women's Advocates and asked her if she would be willing to give the presentation on human trafficking that the committee is planning and she agreed to do this. Chris stated the presentation has been scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2017, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Brioschi Hall. Chris said this date was chosen based on Meg's schedule and the availability of Brioschi Hall.

**Presentation Topics:**

Chris stated that she invited Meg to the meeting to discuss what the committee members would like the presentation to address. Meg mentioned that her presentation will discuss: the definitions, differences and similarities of human trafficking, labor trafficking and sex trafficking, the ways people become involved in trafficking, trafficking venues, the characteristics of the perpetrators and victims of trafficking, how perpetrators prey on their victims, signs of trafficking, how to get help for the victims of trafficking etc.

The committee members informed Meg they are fine with the described content of her presentation but would also like her to share some statistics about trafficking which illustrate that this crime takes place in Minnesota. They asked her to mention that sex trafficking is associated with large sporting events such as the Super Bowl that will take place in Minneapolis in 2018. They also asked her to provide some suggestions on what actions people can take in response to this issue. The committee members decided to title the presentation "Human Trafficking 101."

Meg agreed to bring handouts to the presentation as well as her laptop and adapter.

**Childcare:**

Julianne mentioned that she spoke to Katie Hemsworth, the parishioner who provides childcare in the parish nursery during mass, and asked her what she would charge for providing childcare during the "Human Trafficking 101" presentation. She said Katie charges \$10.00 per hour. The committee members decided to see if Katie would be available to work on the night of the presentation. Julianne agreed to ask Katie about this and to book her if she is available. Julianne also stated that she will ask Katie if there is a limit to the number of children for whom she can provide childcare.

## Advertising:

- The committee members discussed advertising for the presentation. Chris said that Meg informed her that she has a flyer template that she could modify with the date, time and location of the “Human Trafficking 101” presentation. Chris stated that once it is determined whether Katie can provide childcare, she will contact Meg to let her know the final details for updating the flyer. (If childcare will be provided, this will be added to the flyer.) Chris said that once she receives the final flyer from Meg, she will forward it to the committee members.

The committee members agreed to see if the finalized flyer could be inserted in the bulletin the weekend before the presentation. Chris volunteered to ask the parish’s Communication Specialist, Thea Munoz, about this. The committee members also discussed having additional copies of the flyer available in Brioschi Hall during fellowship on the Sunday prior to the presentation and passing out copies of it after mass on the weekend before the event.

The committee members wondered if it would be possible to send a copy of the flyer home with the school children. Jane Marie volunteered to ask the school principal, Laurie Jennrich, about this.

The committee members discussed posting the flyer in nearby community centers and libraries (if permitted). Anna volunteered to hang the flyer up at the Hazel Park Recreation Center and the local Boys and Girls Club. Kendall agreed to post the flyer at the Arlington Hills Library and the Dayton’s Bluff Library.

- Bill volunteered to submit bulletin announcements regarding the event. He will submit one announcement and ask that it be put in the bulletin each of the four weeks leading up to the presentation - starting with September 24, 2017, bulletin.

Chris will ask Thea Munoz if there is a way to have the bulletin announcement regarding the presentation advertised in other local parish bulletins.

- The committee members spoke about advertising the presentation via Facebook in order to reach those who utilize social media. Julianne agreed to ask the parish’s Faith Formation staff member, Kim Roering, if she could post information about this presentation.
- Chris said she would submit a pulpit announcement regarding the presentation.
- The committee members discussed the possibility of having human trafficking be a theme of one of the Prayers of the Faithful on the weekend before the presentation. Chris stated she will ask Sharon Balcom about this.

## **Treats:**

Anna, Christine, Julianne, Kendall and Margaret volunteered to bring treats on the night of the presentation.

## **Immigration: A Catholic Response Event**

Chris reported that the parish's Adult Faith Formation Team has planned a presentation by Dr. Bernie Evans on "Immigration: A Catholic Response" that will take place on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Brioschi Hall. Chris said that she and Kim Roering are members of the Adult Faith Formation Team and they were wondering if the Social Justice and Caring Committee would be interested in co-sponsoring this event since the topic is related to social justice. The committee members agreed to co-sponsor the event.

The committee members decided to ask Kim Roering if the "Human Trafficking 101" presentation could be mentioned as an upcoming event at the end of the "Immigration: A Catholic Response" evening.

## **Committee Name Tags**

The members briefly discussed creating name tags that would identify them as committee members. It was felt that these could be created once the committee logo is finalized.

## **We Care Campaign**

Chris reminded the committee members that the next We Care Campaign will be held the weekend of October 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. They discussed the following options for the campaign:

- **Arrive Ministries** - an organization that strives to bring lifelong transformation to refugees and immigrants in the state of Minnesota by providing reception and placement services, employment services, cash assistance, immigration legal services, language classes, community development programs and other services to refugees;
- **Catholic Charities USA** - the official domestic relief agency of the United States Catholic Church which supports disaster response and recovery efforts - including direct assistance, home repair, home rebuilding, health care services and other programs;
- **International Institute of Minnesota** - an organization that delivers culturally accessible services and resources to assist new Americans as they strive to achieve economic self-sufficiency and full membership in the American life;
- **Retirement Fund for Religious** - a fund that assists religious communities in providing support for the elderly brothers, sisters and religious order priests; and
- **Women's Advocates** - a shelter located in St. Paul that provides assistance and services (e.g., advocacy, clothing, counseling, crisis hotline, meals, transportation etc.) to women and children escaping domestic violence.

The committee members decided upon the following options: Catholic Charities USA, International Institute and Women's Advocates.

The committee members discussed the possibility of having a second collection at each of the masses on the “We Care Campaign” weekend to collect additional funds for the chosen options.

### **Possible School Board/Social Justice and Caring Committee Collaboration**

Jane Marie informed the committee members that the School Board, of which she is a member, met with the Finance Council and the Parish Counsel to discuss how parish committees could collaborate to accomplish parish goals. She described two proposed ideas that could incorporate the mission of the Social Justice and Caring Committee and the School Board.

Jane Marie reported that the first idea is to give parish seniors the opportunity to volunteer to work with students at the school. She stated this may include having the seniors be “lunch buddies” with the students as well as serving as tutors before and/or after school. Jane Marie said this project would allow the school to utilize the gifts and skills of the seniors and provide them with an opportunity to feel valued. Jane Marie volunteered to chair this project.

Jane Marie mentioned that the seniors would be required to complete a background check and complete VIRTUS training before working with the students. She stated this is a requirement for all clergy, parish/school employees and volunteers who work with children under the age of eighteen. Jane Marie stated that Kim Roering could provide this training.

Jane Marie said that Fr. Mike and Laurie Jennrich support this idea. She asked the committee members if they would support this idea as well. They offered their support. Jane Marie stated that she will inform the School Board that the committee members support this effort and that she will keep them posted on the project’s progress.

Jane Marie mentioned that the second proposed idea is to create a one-day-a-week after-school program for neighborhood children. Jane said that the School Board prefers working on the idea of having parish seniors assist the school students.

### **Eastside Community Meal**

Mary announced that a date has been decided for the Eastside Community Meal that will be hosted by the parish; it will take place on Thursday, November 16, 2017. She reiterated that St. Pascal’s is serving as the venue for the event but is not responsible for planning it. Mary stated that Fr. Mike did mention that it is possible that the committee members could assist with hospitality for the event.

### **Next Meeting**

Sunday, October 1, 2017, at 11:30 a.m. in the Founders’ Room at church

Please note, the committee members decided to meet at the above-listed date and time instead of on the usual meeting date of the first Thursday of the month to enable them to be available to attend the second night of the Adult Faith Formation event featuring Art Zanonne - The Stories Jesus Left Behind: Parables in the Gospel of Luke that is taking place on October 5<sup>th</sup>.