

**Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church  
Social Justice and Caring Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday, January 4, 2018**

Present: Martha Arko, Kendall Doom, Bill Dorgan, Carmen Johnson, Christine Malec,  
(minute writer), Margaret Malec and Julianne Wojcik

**Brittany's Place**

Kendall reported that she gathered the items that the committee members collected for Brittany's Place and delivered them to this organization the Friday before Christmas. She said she brought the items to Sarah Florman, the Senior Manager of Shelter Services at 180 Degrees, who was very grateful and informed her that the items could be distributed to the shelter residents throughout the coming year.

The committee members discussed donating items to Brittany's Place on a regular basis - perhaps asking parishioners to donate one type of item per month (such as deodorant, shampoo etc.). Carmen volunteered to speak to or meet with her contact Michelle from Brittany's Place to ask if such donations would be desired throughout the year. The committee members asked Carmen to invite Michelle to a future meeting in order to discuss how the parish could partner with Brittany's Place in the future.

**Donation Closet**

Chris mentioned that parishioner Kathy Meyer asked her who is responsible for delivering the items contained in the parish's donation closet that have been collected for Brittany's Place. Chris stated that Kathy notified her that she has volunteered to keep the donation closet organized and that she noticed that the bin for Brittany's Place is overflowing and would like to have it cleaned out as soon as possible. Chris said she told Kathy that she would discuss the Brittany's Place donations at this committee meeting.

It was noted that the additional items that have been placed in the Brittany's Place bin must have been put there by parishioners the Saturday and Sunday before Christmas since the bin had been cleaned out the Friday before Christmas. The committee members discussed the possibility of storing these items in the overflow closet on the lower level of the building until after they have had an opportunity to contact Brittany's Place staff to discuss possible future donation needs.

Bill reported that some parishioners had questions about Brittany's Place. Even though a flyer had been placed in the bulletin describing this organization, the committee members discussed the possibility of creating posters to place in the donation closet giving descriptions of the various charities for whom donations are being collected, describing what the charities do, giving information about their staff etc.

Chris reminded the members that the committee also sponsors Joseph's Coat and the Listening House and that the items collected for these charities may also have to be cleaned out of the donation closet.

## We Care Campaign

Chris informed the committee members that Parish Administrator, Theresa Ruttger, provided her with the totals for the “We Care Campaign” that was held the weekend of October 28 - 29, 2017. Chris said that \$1,539.80 was donated to each of the following charities:

- **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 and
- **Women’s Advocates** - a shelter located in St. Paul that provides assistance and services to women and children escaping domestic violence (e.g., advocacy, clothing, counseling, crisis hotline, meals, transportation etc.).

Chris stated that she was surprised to see that the totals were the same for all three charities so she wondered if the amounts designated on the Campaign envelopes had been referenced. She said she will contact Theresa and alert her to the designated amounts contained on the We Care Campaign envelopes handed in by parishioners so that these can be consulted in future campaigns.

Chris mentioned that she had responded to the e-mail that Theresa sent to the committee in which she asked when the We Care Campaigns take place. Chris reported that she informed Theresa of the designated We Care Campaign weekends, described the campaign envelopes contained in the packets sent to parishioners and placed on the tables near the church entrances and discussed the distribution of campaign funds.

Chris stated that Theresa told her she has placed the We Care Campaigns on the calendar and requested that the committee members notify her when they would like her to zero out the accounts and send the checks to the designated charities.

The committee members discussed possible options for the next We Care Campaign that will be held the weekend of March 3 - 4, 2018. At the last meeting, they had discussed the possibility of choosing California wild fire relief efforts, St. Mary’s Mission in Red Lake and St. Thomas More’s sanctuary church ministry. The committee members chose St. Thomas More as an option since they had decided at the last meeting to support this effort monetarily.

The committee members determined that if they were to choose collecting money for California wild fire relief efforts, they would go through an organization such as Catholic Relief Services.

Carmen reported that she had spoken to pastor Fr. Mike Byron briefly about supporting St. Mary’s Mission in Red Lake and it was unclear whether he considers this to be a social justice-related issue. She agreed to speak to him again about this issue to clarify his thoughts on this.

The committee members decided to finalize the We Care Campaign options at their next meeting.

### **Strategic Planning**

The committee members did some brief strategic planning. Some expressed a desire to continue having flexibility on the committee, being able to pick and choose which projects upon which to work.

They discussed creating some future plans - listing desired activities and who would be the contact for these activities. (For example, Carmen said she could be the contact for Brittany's Place and the St. Thomas More sanctuary church ministry.)

Chris mentioned that Mary Weyandt, the committee's Parish Council liaison, has indicated that she is willing to bring any future needs that the committee may have to the Council.

### **Fish Fry Table Tents**

The committee members agreed they would again place table tents in Brioschi Hall during this Lent's fish fry. They discussed using the theme of poverty but then decided to re-use the ones made last year on the topic of immigration since they felt this is a timely issue. They decided to take out the table tents at the next meeting and fix any needing repair.

### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, February 1, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Founders' Room at church