

Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church
Social Justice and Caring Committee
Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday, February 1, 2018

Present: Martha Arko, Anna DeCrans, Melissa DeCrans, Kendall Doom (and her son Oscar), Carmen Johnson, Christine Malec (minute writer), Margaret Malec, Mary Weyandt and Julianne Wojcik

Potential New Member

The members welcomed Melissa DeCrans, a parishioner who is considering joining the committee.

We Care Campaign

The committee members decided on the options for the “We Care Campaign” that will be held the weekend of March 3 - 4, 2018. These are:

- **Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. Wildfire Relief Efforts** - who is providing support to those who have been affected by the wildfires in southern California,
- **St. Pascal Baylon Emergency Fund** - a fund that assists people from the parish who find themselves faced with a short-term financial crisis and
- **St. Thomas More’s Sanctuary Church Ministry** - a St. Paul church that is ministering to unauthorized immigrants facing deportation by providing them housing in its parish center.

Brittany’s Place

The committee members discussed how the parish could continue to support Brittany’s Place, a shelter located on the eastside of St. Paul that helps teenagers who are victims of sex trafficking. They decided to set out a box each week of this Lent’s fish fry to collect items for the shelter.

Kendall volunteered to contact Sarah Florman, the Senior Manager of Shelter Services at 180 Degrees - the organization that runs Brittany’s Place, and ask her what items are needed most.

Chris agreed to write an announcement that will be placed in the bulletin each week of Lent asking parishioners to bring the needed items to the fish fry.

Anna sent an e-mail during the meeting to Men’s Club member, Rich Hoffman, who works on the fish fry, notifying him of the committee’s intentions.

Kendall stated that she will deliver the items that have been collected for Brittany’s Place since the last time a delivery was made.

Kendall will also invite Sarah to a future meeting so that committee members can ask her for future collaboration ideas.

Fish Fry Table Tents

The committee members agreed they would again place table tents in Brioschi Hall during this Lent's fish fry. They decided to re-use the ones made last year on the topic of immigration since they felt this is a timely issue.

During the meeting, Julianne made some extra table tents that could be used to replace any of those that were damaged last year. Martha volunteered to place the tents on the tables on the first day of the fish fry.

The use of table tents led to a discussion on how the committee members might be able to utilize the placemats used at the fish fry and other parish events instead of table tents as a vehicle for informing people about various social justice-related topics or organizations supported by the committee. The committee members decided it was too late to utilize the placemats at this Lent's fish fry but they decided to keep this idea in mind for future use.

Strategic Planning

The members briefly discussed the committee's role and how it fits in with other parish groups. The spoke about working with the Shane Lefler, the parish's Volunteer Coordinator, to see if he could assist in finding parishioners who may be interested in volunteering for social justice-related activities.

Sex Trafficking

Chris mentioned that pastor, Fr. Mike Byron, had sent her an e-mail directing her to an article that appeared in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* several weeks ago regarding a group in Washington county named Citizens Against Sex Trafficking (CAST) that is working to fight this crime. Chris read the article to the committee which states that CAST is an auxiliary to the East Metro Human Trafficking Task Force and that it works to provide public awareness on the topic by making presentations in churches and schools.

The committee members discussed the possibility of working with CAST on the topic of human trafficking. Melissa said that she knows an officer who was on the St. Paul Police Department Human Trafficking Task Force whom she will contact to see if they are ways the committee could help with this issue.

The committee members talked about trying to have an effect on the underlying causes of this issue - such as poverty, poor body image etc. They discussed showing some movies at the school or parish that address body image issues. It was felt that these movies (or parts of them) could also be used at the below-described Children's Summit.

Children's Summit

Mary stated that she had spoken to Fr. Mike about an idea that came from the School Board regarding the possibility of having a Children's Summit to investigate the needs of children on

the eastside and how the parish/school could respond to some of the needs identified (for example, establishing an early-learning program for children that could benefit the kids as well as be a source of revenue for the parish/school). She said the committee members are being invited to partner with those planning the summit. The committee members were supportive of this idea and asked Mary to keep them informed of these efforts.

Social Justice Library

Chris reported that she had spoken to former committee member Margaret Anzevino, who has worked as a librarian, and asked her if she would be willing to catalogue the items contained in the committee's social justice library. Chris said Margaret agreed to do this. Chris stated that after the items are catalogued, a system will need to be devised for how they can be borrowed and returned by parishioners.

Next Meeting

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