

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

Present: Anna DeCrans, Kendall Doom (and her son Oscar), Bill Dorgan, Christine Malec (minute writer), Margaret Malec, Mary Weyandt and Julianne Wojcik

**We Care Campaign**

Chris reminded the committee members that the “We Care Campaign” will be held the weekend of March 3 - 4, 2018, and that the options chosen for this campaign 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.

Chris stated that she sent an e-mail to Parish Administrator, Theresa Ruttger, providing her with the addresses of the campaign recipients and asking her if she would be willing to keep track of the amounts designated on the “We Care Campaign” envelopes that get submitted by parishioners, the total number of envelopes used and the amount of bills and coins received in the plate for the collection weekend. Chris said that Theresa agreed to do this and informed her that she will wait for approval from the committee before dispersing the raised funds to the designated charities. Chris noted that Theresa told her that some envelopes have already been submitted - all of which contained no designations.

**Brittany’s Place**

Chris reported that Kendall finally heard back from Michelle Hall from 180 Degrees regarding they type of items Brittany’s Place would like to receive as donations. Chris stated that when she received this information, she submitted a bulletin announcement informing parishioners what items are being requested, asking them to bring them any time during this Lent’s fish fry. Chris said that when she submitted the announcement, Thea Munoz, the Parish Communications Specialist, informed her that it could appear in the bulletin no more than three weeks in a row and that the committee could also submit a flyer for insertion in the bulletin.

Chris stated that she purchased a bin and attached a flyer to it describing Brittany’s Place and the items being requested. Chris said that absent committee member, Martha Arko, arranged to have members of the Council of Catholic Women place the bin in the gathering space each week of the fish fry when they come to this event to sell baked good. Chris said that she and Margaret will put the bin away each Friday at the end of the fish fry when they go to church to attend the Stations of the Cross and that they will put the donations in the environment storage area on the lower level until the end of Lent when all the items can be delivered to Brittany’s Place.

The members discussed using a bin on wheels to facilitate the transfer of donated items. They also talked about the possibility of placing a bin in the school and asking the students to bring in donations - perhaps having a raffle for those who donate, giving them an opportunity to win a prize.

Anna announced that Men's Club member Rich Hoffman, who works on the fish fry, asked her if Brittany's Place would want any of the dinner rolls that are left over from this event or any of doughnuts that are left over from fellowship Sunday. Anna stated that Rich informed her that he would be willing to bring the leftovers to Brittany's Place. Kendall said that she does not think Britany's Place would be able to accept the dinner rolls since they are already cooked but that the doughnuts might be able to be accepted since they are store-bought. Kendall stated she could check on this.

The committee members discussed that they would still like to donate items to Brittany's Place on a regular basis - perhaps asking parishioners to donate one type of item per month throughout the year.

### **Fish Fry Table Tents**

The committee members noted that last year's table tents on the topic of immigration that they decided to re-use again this year in Brioschi Hall during this Lent's fish fry have not held up well - many are missing and the ones that are there are in disrepair. They decided this increased their desire to have social justice-related information printed on the placemats that are used at next year's fish fry.

### **Children's Summit**

Mary reported that she has not heard anything further on the Children's Summit that may be planned 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). Mary said this issue has been tabled temporarily until after the Finance Council/Parish Council/School Board retreat takes place on March 10, 2018.

### **Social Justice Library**

Chris mentioned that she had spoken to former committee member, Margaret Anzevino, who volunteered to catalogue the items contained in the committee's social justice library. She stated that Margaret informed her that she is investigating some on-line materials that may be of assistance.

The committee members decided that, even though the library currently does not contain a lot of items, they will hold off from putting an announcement in the bulletin soliciting donations. Kendall agreed to donate some social work-related books that she has to the library and Mary

volunteered to go through the children's books that she has to determine if any would be good candidates to donate.

The committee members discussed where to house the social justice library. Chris reminded the committee members that Thea Munoz offered the use of a moving cart for this purpose. The committee members decided they would prefer to have a permanent location for the library (perhaps on a bookshelf in Brioschi Hall) to avoid having to take out/put away the above-mentioned cart. Chris volunteered to ask pastor Fr. Mike Byron thoughts on having the library housed in Brioschi Hall.

### **American Red Cross Blood Drive**

Margaret announced that the next American Red Cross Blood Drive will take place at the parish on Monday, April 18, 2018, from 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

### **Theater Outing**

The committee members talked about different ways of educating the parish on social justice-related issues. They discussed the possibility of inviting parishioners to attend a play at a local theater that has a social justice theme (such as are often performed by the Illusion Theater in Minneapolis or the SteppingStone Theatre for Youth Development in St. Paul) and then having a post-play discussion to continue dialoguing about this issue. The committee members discussed the possibility of renting a bus to transport parishioners to and from the event.

Anna said that she could provide the committee members with a list of cultural events that are taking place in the Twin Cities for their perusal.

### **Strategic Planning**

The committee members discussed their desire to have increased communication with the Parish Council so they can better dialogue with the Council regarding the parish's strategic plan and how this should affect the committee's activities. They spoke about the possibility of having a parish representative on the committee and speculated whether the committee sponsor, Deacon Rich Moore, could be this person.

The committee members talked about some possible future social justice-related themes - such as affordable housing for senior citizens, gun violence in schools, health care for Minnesota farmers etc.

### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, April 5, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Founders' Room at church