

**Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church
Social Justice and Caring Committee
Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday, May 3, 2018**

Present: Martha Arko, Bill Dorgan, Carmen Johnson, Christine Malec (minute writer), Mary Tacheny, Mary Weyandt and Julianne Wojcik

Guest: Margaret Anzevino

Social Justice Library

Mary Tacheny and former committee member, Margaret Anzevino, brought the items that have been collected for the social justice library. Mary stated that there are approximately 65 items in the library which were contributed by an anonymous donor. She said that the library items include books and digital versatile discs for adults and children whose subject matters include bullying, human rights, human trafficking, immigration, racism, respect etc.

Margaret, a former librarian, stated that she created a spreadsheet on which she listed the title, author, date and cost of each item. She said she assigned an acquisition number to each item and created a column on the spreadsheet on which to enter the date on which each item was withdrawn from the collection. Margaret stated that she affixed a pocket to the back of each item containing a sign-out card that parishioners can fill out when borrowing it.

Margaret said that she also made labels to affix to each of the items which show the name and logo of the parish. Several of the committee members affixed the labels to the items during the meeting.

The committee members acknowledged that since the check-out system will be very informal, it is likely that some of the items will be borrowed and never returned. It is hoped that the labels and sign-out cards will help borrowers remember that the items belong to the parish.

The committee members debated where the library should be located. Chris mentioned that she asked pastor Fr. Mike Byron if it would be possible to store the library in Brioschi Hall on a permanent bookshelf and that he informed her that he wanted to ask the parish staff members their input on this at their next meeting. Chris stated that she had not heard back from Fr. Mike yet but that parish Communication Specialist, Thea Munoz, had informed her that it was felt that Brioschi Hall would not be a good location for the bookshelf due to the fact that the bookshelf would need to be affixed to the wall and this would create work for the parish Facilities Committee. Chris said that Thea also mentioned that keeping the bookshelf in Brioschi Hall may be problematic since this room is a public place in which a variety of parish and community events are held and, because of this, if the bookshelf were to be housed there, the Facilities Committee would need to get involved in determining what type of bookshelf could be used.

The committee members discussed the possibility of putting the bookshelf in the area outside the Founders' Room but wondered if the bookshelf would need to be affixed to a wall there as well.

Chris stated that Thea offered the committee the use of a movable cart for the library. The committee members were unsure if they wanted to use the cart since they would prefer to have the library housed in a permanent location.

The committee members discussed the possibility of introducing the social justice library to the parish by displaying its contents in Brioschi Hall after the masses one Sunday.

The committee members decided to table this discussion for the time being.

We Care Campaign

Chris announced that she received the totals for the “We Care Campaign” held the weekend of March 3 - 4, 2018, from Parish Administrator, Theresa Ruttger. A total of \$1,198.50 was raised. Individually, the following amounts were raised for the three options chosen for the campaign:

- **Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. Wildfire Relief Efforts** (Please note, this charity was incorrectly listed as Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. Wildlife Relief Efforts in the April 5, 2018, meeting minutes.) - who is providing support to those who have been affected by the wildfires in southern California - \$349.50,
- **St. Pascal Baylon Emergency Fund** - a fund that assists people from the parish who find themselves faced with a short-term financial crisis - \$522.00 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 - \$327.00.

\$328.50 of the total amount came from the loose bills and coins from the collection.

Twenty-eight “We Care Campaign” envelopes were used.

Chris announced that the next “We Care Campaign” will be held the last weekend of June 2 - 3, 2018. The committee members discussed the following options for this campaign:

- **Brittany’s Place** - a shelter located on the eastside of St. Paul that helps teenagers who are victims of sex trafficking;
- the **Catholic Medical Mission Board** - an international faith-based organization that provides long-term cooperative medical and development aid to communities affected by poverty and healthcare issues;
- a **gang prevention program on the eastside**;
- the **Holy Family Surgery Center at Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos Orphanage in Honduras** - a center spearheaded by Dr. Peter Daly, an orthopedic surgeon from Minnesota, which provides same day surgical procedures for underprivileged patients who otherwise could not afford surgery;
- a **program that ministers to senior citizens**;
- **Progressive Baptist Church Fishes and Loaves Food Shelf** - which provides emergency food items to anybody in need; and

- **The Listening House** - a St. Paul inner-city drop-in center that provides hospitality and practical assistance to disadvantaged, homeless and lonely people.

The committee members chose the Holy Family Surgery Center at Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos Orphanage in Honduras, Progressive Baptist Church Fishes and Loaves Food Shelf and The Listening House.

Chris said she would submit the bulletin announcements regarding the We Care Campaign.

Charity Fair

Mary Weyandt suggested that the committee organize a charity fair - inviting various charities to speak to the parish about their organizations or to invite the charities to have a conversation about a certain social justice-related topic, discussing what action steps could be done to address the issue.

Brittany's Place

Carmen announced that she and absent committee member, Kendall Doom, delivered the items that were collected for Brittany's Place during the fish fry held this past Lent. She stated that they met the mother of the girl for whom the shelter was named.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Chris reported that the American Red Cross blood drive was canceled due to the fact that the building was closed as a result of the snow storm. Chris said that absent committee member, Margaret Malec, was not contacted about the cancellation until right before the blood drive was scheduled to begin.

The committee members discussed that people who do not read the bulletin may not be aware that the blood drives take place since, currently, the bulletin is the only place where this event is advertised. They talked about the possibility of advertising the blood drive on the parish website or on its facebook page.

Town Hall Meeting

Mary Weyandt reminded the committee members of the town hall meeting to discuss the future of St. Pascal's educational mission which is being held on Wednesday, May 9, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in Brioschi Hall.

Social Justice-related Outings

Chris told the committee members that she forwarded to them the e-mail that absent committee member, Anna DeCrans, sent her regarding some upcoming social justice-related cultural events taking place in the Twin Cities. Chris stated that Anna informed her that she will be attending

Herstory on Sunday, May 20, 2018, and that if any committee members are interested in accompanying her, they should let her know.

The Listening House

Bill mentioned that he had met with Cheryl Peterson, the Executive Director of The Listening House, a daytime community center serving low-income, homeless and lonely adults that was recently relocated in the First Lutheran Church on the east side of St. Paul. Bill said that Cheryl informed him that The Listening House is currently involved in a lawsuit with the City of St. Paul. Bill stated that Cheryl notified him that some neighbors who live near The Listening House had made some complaints against some of The Listening House's guests, claiming they loiter, become intoxicated etc. and that the City tried to strike a compromise between The Listening House and its neighbors by imposing restrictions on The Listening House regarding the number of guests it could have, the hours it could set etc. Bill said The Listening House is suing the City claiming that these restrictions are unreasonable.

Bill distributed a flyer on The Listening House and some handouts regarding rules placed on this organizations and its guests.

Bill stated that he would like the parish to side with The Listening House in its lawsuit against the City. He said that he would be meeting with Fr. Mike to discuss this. The committee members decided they would like to learn more about this issue before making a decision regarding whether the parish should take a stand. They suggested that Bill invite Cheryl to its next committee meeting.

Bill mentioned that he would also like to speak to the Parish Council about this issue. Mary Weyandt, the committee's Parish Council liaison, informed Bill that she will mention this at a future Council meeting.

Single-payer Healthcare

Bill distributed an informational handout regarding "single-payer" healthcare - a system financed by taxes that cover the costs of healthcare for all - with costs covered by one public system (that is, a "single payer").

Next Meeting

Thursday, June 7, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Founders' room at church