

**Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church  
Social Justice and Caring Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday, August 2, 2018**

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

**American Red Cross Blood Drive**

Margaret reported that the American Red Cross Blood Drive was held at the parish on Monday, July 9, 2018, and that 37 pints were donated. She stated this amount was fewer than normal. Margaret said she thought this was due to the fact that the American Red Cross had asked her to schedule fewer donors per hour than she had previously scheduled and because she had to make cold calls to find donors for this blood drive instead of being able to start with a list volunteers who signed up to give blood at the previous drive held at the parish. She stated that she did not have this list from the previous blood drive that was scheduled in April due to the fact that it had been canceled because of inclement weather.

Margaret announced that the next blood drive at the parish will be held on Monday, November 5, 2018.

**Social Justice Library**

Chris said that additional items have been donated to the social justice library. She stated that Margaret Anzevino, the former committee member who catalogued the items in the library, gave her a pen drive containing a list of all the items in the library as well as a paper copy of the list. Chris said she will ask Margaret if she would like to continue cataloguing new items that are added to the library or if she would prefer to have a committee member take over this task. Kendal stated she is willing to help with this.

Chris noted that some parishioners are checking out items from the library.

**We Care Campaign**

Chris reported that she received the totals for the "We Care Campaign" held the weekend of June 2 - 3, 2018, from Parish Administrator, Theresa Ruttger and Administrative Assistant, Marla Eberhardt. A total of \$1,434.62 was raised. Individually, the following amounts were raised for the three options chosen for the campaign:

- **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 - \$471.54,

- **Progressive Baptist Church Fishes and Loaves Food Shelf** - a food shelf located within Progressive Baptist Church in St. Paul which provides emergency food items to anybody in need - \$441.54 and
- **The Listening House** - a St. Paul inner-city drop-in center that provides hospitality and practical assistance to disadvantaged, homeless and lonely people - \$521.54.

\$343.62 of the total amount came from the loose bills and coins from the collection.

Thirty-five “We Care Campaign” envelopes were used.

Chris said that she thinks she may schedule a meeting with Theresa Ruttger to discuss how to better streamline the “We Care Campaign” process.

The committee members noted that fewer donations seem to be made to the campaign and discussed whether there is a need to increase awareness of these collections. Some suggestions included writing a pulpit announcement for the weekend of the campaign and putting some type of notice on the collection baskets informing parishioners that the weekend’s bills and loose change would be donated to the charities chosen for the campaign.

Chris mentioned that the next “We Care Campaign” will be held the weekend of October 27 - 28, 2018.

### **Brittany’s Place**

Kendall reported that she and former committee member, Mary Tacheny, attended a celebration commemorating Brittany’s birthday (for whom Britany’s Place was named). She stated that it was a very joyful celebration and that Brittany’s House was presented with a check from the Stillwater Prison System’s restorative justice program.

The committee members discussed collecting supplies for Britany’s Place. They debated collecting for this organization on a monthly or quarterly basis. They decided they preferred to collect donations on a quarterly basis.

### **Back-to -School Drives**

The committee members decided to have a “back-to-school” drive for Britany’s Place. Kendall volunteered to contact Britany’s Place and ask what items are most needed.

The committee members also decided to collect supplies for the parish school. Julianne agreed to contact the school to ask what type of supplies are most desired.

The committee members discussed the possibility of setting up a collection bin at this year’s Fall Festival as part of these “back-to-school” drives.

## **Bulletin Board**

Chris asked the committee members if anyone would be able to take on the responsibility of updating the committee's bulletin board since this is no longer being done by former committee member, Mary Tacheny. Kendall volunteered to look for materials to hang on the board and Julianne agreed to post them.

## **The Listening House**

Bill reported that he had spoken to Cheryl Peterson from the Listening House who informed him that attorneys from the Listening House and the City of St. Paul are in the process of trying to find a solution to the problems that the Listening House has been having with some people from the neighborhood. (Previously, Cheryl had informed the committee that soon after relocating, a small group of neighbors who live near the Listening House made some complaints against some of its guests, claiming they loiter, become intoxicated etc. and that the City of St. Paul tried to strike a compromise between the Listening House and these neighbors by imposing restrictions on the Listening House regarding the number of guests it could have, the hours it could set etc. which the Listening House staff felt were unreasonable.) Bill said Cheryl felt that things seem to be moving forward in a positive manner.

Bill stated that he met with the parish's new pastor, Fr. John Mitchell, to let him know about what has been happening with the Listening House and informed him that the committee members are supportive of this organization.

The committee members resumed a discussion started at their previous meeting regarding the possibility of sending a letter of support for the Listening House to the Parish Council, asking the Council members to pass a motion demonstrating the parish's support of this organization. Bill distributed two different letters that he had drafted.

The committee members debated whether it would be more appropriate to have such a letter signed by the committee, the Parish Council or the parish-at-large. The members expressed a desire to have some guidance from the Parish Council members concerning when they feel the committee must obtain the Council's approval for actions taken by the committee. Mary, as Parish Council liaison, agreed to report this request for guidance to the Council. Mary also noted that she did distribute the letter that Cheryl Peterson had written to the committee regarding the Listening House's current situation to the Council members during their last meeting.

The committee members decided to table further discussion on the letter until the September meeting after which they may have heard an update regarding the negotiations between the Listening House and City of St. Paul attorneys and after Mary may have had a chance to speak to the Parish Council. They agreed to review the draft letters and provide their comments at the September meeting.

## **Strategic Planning**

The committee members briefly discussed spending more time on strategic planning. They decided they should determine whether they want to commit themselves to working on projects they have discussed working on in the past but have not yet completed - such as the children's activity bags, organizing social justice-related outings, using the newly-created committee logo etc.

Mary mentioned that former committee member, Mary Tacheny, offered to assist the committee with its strategic planning. She also said that the Parish Council continues to work on strategic planning efforts for itself and the parish. The committee members decided to see if the Parish Council develops any new guidance as a result of its strategic planning efforts.

## **Committee Liaison**

Chris announced that Fr. John had contacted her to let her know that the parish has hired a Pastoral Care Minister named Bonnie Steele and that her job duties will include serving as the committee liaison. The committee members expressed their delight in having a parish liaison.

## **Domestic Violence Presentation**

Chris reported that she had received an e-mail from Meggie Royer asking if Brioschi Hall could be used as a venue for a domestic violence presentation that she will be giving for the Minnesota League of Women Voters in the fall. (Chris reminded the committee members that Meggie was the person who had given presentations on domestic violence and human trafficking at the parish.)

Chris stated that she spoke to parish staff about the possibility of the Minnesota League of Minnesota Voters using Brioschi Hall and discovered that this organization would have to pay for the use of the hall unless the committee sponsored the event.

Chris said that she had contacted Meggie to let her know what she found out about the use of Brioschi Hall and asked her if the committee members would be expected to assist with the event if they agreed to sponsor it (such as provide treats, help with the set-up/take down etc.). Chris stated that Meggie informed her that she would like to use the audio-visual equipment in Brioschi Hall but that the Minnesota League of Women Voters would perform the necessary work for this presentation.

Chris said that Meggie also asked if the parish could supply childcare for the event. Chris stated that she heard that the person from the parish who usually provides childcare may be unavailable in the fall. The committee members were not certain if the person providing the childcare would have to be Virtus-trained since the event is being put on by the Minnesota League of Women Voters.

Chris asked the committee members their thoughts on sponsoring this event. They agreed to sponsor the event.

Chris said that she will contact the parish office and Meggie to establish a date and time to schedule the event.

### **Liturgy**

Mary suggested to the committee members that they think of ways to tie in social justice committee-related issues with the liturgies - such as mentioning committee events in the announcements.

### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, September 6, 2018, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Founders' Room at church