

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

Present: Anna DeCrans, Kendall Doom, Bill Dorgan, Christine Malec (minute writer), Margaret Malec, Fr. John Mitchell and Mary Weyandt

The Listening House

The committee members debated various ways of working with the Listening House. Bill stated that he visited the Listening House to speak with Cheryl Peterson, its Executive Director, with hopes of getting an update from her regarding the Listening House's lawsuit against the City of St. Paul but she was not there.

Bill said that he had attended the last Parish Council meeting asking the members to demonstrate their support of the Listening House by sending a letter of endorsement to this organization on behalf of the parish. Bill stated that the Council members were not prepared to do this and asked for further information regarding what having the Council's support meant - such as a monetary donation or something else.

The committee members discussed sending their own letter of support to the Listening House that would be signed by themselves instead of the Council. A suggestion was also made that the committee could set up a table in the gathering space after each of the masses one weekend and invite parishioners to sign this letter as well.

The committee members thought it would be helpful to raise the visibility of the Listening House within the parish. They decided one way to do this would be through an open house that parishioners could attend. The committee members realized that hosting an open house would put a burden on the Listening House so decided that it may be better to invite parishioners to visit the Listening House on their own to learn more about it. The committee members considered visiting the Listening House to educate themselves about this ministry.

Bill agreed to contact Cheryl Peterson again to obtain an update on the needs of the Listening House. The committee members debated on whether to resume the discussion of this topic at their next meeting.

Getting to Know You Dinner

The committee members decided to host its own "Getting to Know You Dinner" for the new pastor, Fr. John Mitchell, to give them an opportunity to meet him and learn more about him. They decided to have a potluck dinner during their next regularly-scheduled meeting on November 1, 2018. Fr. John accepted their invitation to attend this potluck dinner.

Domestic Violence Presentation

Chris said that the Domestic Violence presentation sponsored by the committee and presented by the Minnesota League of Women Voters and Women's Advocates took place on Saturday, September 8, 2018, from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. in Brioschi Hall. She stated that it was not well-attended and, because of this, it was more of a round table discussion with those in attendance instead of the speaker giving a presentation. She said that the discussion held was very good.

Brittany's Place

The committee members decided to collect items for Brittany's Place, a shelter located on the east side of St. Paul that helps teenagers who are victims of sex trafficking, on the weekends of October 20 - 21, 2018, and October 27 - 28, 2018, as well as on All Saints' Day November 1, 2018.

Kendall agreed to send the Brittany's Place needs list to Chris who will submit bulletin announcements regarding the collection. She volunteered to bring the collected items to Brittany's Place.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Margaret reported that the next American Red Cross Blood Drive blood drive will take place on Monday, November 5, 2018, from 1:00 - 7:00 p.m. in Brioschi Hall. She stated that approximately half of the slots are full due to the people who signed up to donate at the previous blood drive held.

Margaret explained that the parish partners with Grace Lutheran church in hosting blood drives five times a year - three at St. Pascals and two at Grace Lutheran.

Urban Homeworks

Anna announced that her employer, Urban Homeworks, an organization that transforms foreclosed and condemned properties into quality places to live, is having its annual "Perpetuate the Hope" fundraising event on Friday, October 12, 2018 from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel at The Depot located at 225 3rd Avenue South in Minneapolis. She said that the event includes a lunch and that the keynote speaker will be Mayor Jacob Frey. She stated that she will speak as well. She invited the committee members to attend.

Voter Registration

Mary asked if the committee would be interested in doing anything with voter registration. The committee members liked the idea and decided to post information regarding election day registration on the tables in Brioschi Hall the weekends of October 20 - 21, 2018, and October 27 - 28, 2018. Since the parishioners who usually attend the 4:30 p.m. mass on Saturdays may not have the opportunity to see the information posted in Brioschi Hall, they discussed the possibility of manning a table in the gathering space after Saturday afternoon mass on either of these

weekends to answer questions that parishioners may have regarding election day registration. Chris and Mary volunteered to work on this.

We Care Campaign

Fr. John asked on which weekend the October We Care Campaign will take place since the parish is going to have a second collection for the victims of Hurricane Florence and he wanted to ensure that the collection would not interfere with the We Care Campaign. Chris notified him that the next We Care Campaign will be held the weekend of October 27 - 28, 2018, and that the options chosen for the Campaign are:

- **St. Pascal Baylon Family Emergency Fund** - a fund used to assist people from the parish and neighborhood who find themselves faced with a short-term financial crisis,
- **Brittany's Place** - a shelter located on the east side of St. Paul that helps teenagers who are victims of sex trafficking and
- **Salvation Army HeatShare Program** - a voluntary, non-governmental program that helps low and moderate-income families pay their energy bills by providing cash grants and emergency assistance with utility and heating bills on a year-round basis.

The committee members asked Fr. John if he would be willing to make a pulpit announcement regarding the Campaign. He said that he would be fine with this and said that the pulpit announcement should be submitted to parish Pastoral Associate for Liturgy, Keri Mader.

Next Meeting

Thursday, November 1, 2018, at 7:30 pm. in the Staff Lounge

Please note, this meeting this meeting will take place one half hour later than usual and will be a potluck dinner with Fr. John. Family members of the committee are also invited to attend.