

**Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church
Social Justice and Caring Committee
Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday, December 6, 2018**

Present: Martha Arko (minute taker), Carol Berg, Bill Dorgan, Carmen Johnson and Julianne Wojcik

American Red Cross Blood Drive

It was announced that 52 pints of blood were donated at the American Red Cross blood drive held at the parish on Monday, November 5, 2018, at that the next blood drive will be held at Grace Lutheran.

Angel Tree Ministry

It was discussed that, at the last meeting, the committee members had decided not to participate in the Angel Tree Ministry, a program that provides the children of incarcerated parents with Christmas gifts, and instead decided they would prefer to minister to families from the parish and/or school who may need financial assistance with purchasing Christmas gifts for their children.

The committee members were reminded that pastor Fr. John had volunteered to speak to the parish and school staff about this issue, asking if there were any current efforts in place to provide Christmas gift-related financial assistance to families in need. It was stated that Fr. John had reported that he asked the parish and school staff about this and was informed that programs are already in place to address these needs and that further assistance was not really needed.

It was said that Fr. John discussed this issue with the Parish Council and the members were supportive of the parish participating in the Angel Tree Ministry.

It was stated that Fr. John contacted the Angel Tree Ministry and was informed they did not need any additional assistance for 2018, but he did put the parish's name down for assisting with this ministry in 2019.

We Care Campaign

The totals from the "We Care Campaign" held on the weekend of October 27 - 28, 2018, were announced. A total of \$1,307.03 was raised. Individually, the following amounts were raised for the three charities in the Campaign:

- **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: \$526.01,
- **Brittany's Place** - a shelter located on the eastside of St. Paul that helps teenagers who are victims of sex trafficking: \$407.01, 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: \$374.01.

\$260.05 of the total came from the loose bills and change from the collection.

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

The Listening House

Carman and Martha reported that they, along with committee member Anna DeCrans, Fr. John Mitchell, and parishioners Ann Karner and Judy Whitacre attended the November 20, 2018, open house at the Listening House. They said that the Director of the Listening House, Cheryl Peterson, and the adults who visit there were very welcoming to them. It was stated that the following issues were discussed during the open house:

- The Listening House is able to offer snacks to its clients whenever it receives these as donations - for example, when it receives leftovers from a church’s funeral lunch. This led to a discussion on the possibility of the parish donating funeral lunch leftovers to the Listening House.
- The Listening House always welcome volunteers but it is preferred that these volunteers get trained before they minister. Cheryl notified those present that she would be accepting more volunteers after the holidays.
- Ann Karner suggested that the committee attempt to make the ministries that it supports, (such as Brittany’s Place, Joseph’s Coat, the Listening House and Merrick Community Services) more visible to the parish by having a regular column in the parish bulletin that explains what these organizations do and what their needs are.
- Cheryl announced that the Listening House was having its annual fundraiser at the St. Paul Hotel on November 28, 2018, and she invited those present to attend. It was reported that Ann, Anna, Carmen and Martha attended and that approximately 250 - 300 were present at the event. The possibility of S. Pascal’s hosting a table at next year’s fundraiser was discussed.

Single Payer Healthcare

Bill mentioned that he is involved with a group that is studying and working on the possibility of a single payer healthcare system for the state of Minnesota. He asked the committee members if they would be interested in working on this issue. He said that he would bring information on this subject to the next committee meeting.

Social Justice Library

Bill renewed the idea of having the social justice library moved from the gathering space (by the nursery room) to Brioschi Hall in order to increase its visibility with parishioners.

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 3, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Founders’ Room at church