

Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church
Social Justice and Caring Committee
Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday, January 3, 2019

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

Donation Closet

Carmen mentioned that she would like to reorganize the parish's donation closet. She said that as part of this reorganization, she would like to make a permanent shelf space for donations for Brittany's Place.

The committee members supported this idea but thought Carmen should discuss it with members of the parish's Council of Catholic Women since they are also involved in supporting the ministries for whom the parish collects donations. Carmen stated that she would speak to absent committee member, Martha Arko, about this since Martha has connections to the parish's Council of Catholic Women.

Margaret reminded the committee members that there is also a spot in the basement storage area that contains overflow from the parish's donation closet.

The committee members had additional discussion regarding possible improvements that could be made to the donation closet - such as posting lists of the various items requested by the ministries for whom the parish collects donations (Brittany's Place, Joseph's Coat, the Listening House and Merrick Community Services). The committee members felt this could help reduce confusion regarding what items are needed by each of these organizations. The following committee members volunteered to write a list for the following ministries:

- Kendall - Brittany's Place,
- Mary - Joseph's Coat,
- Bill - Listening House and
- Margaret - Merrick Community Services.

The committee members also discussed making a flyer to inform parishioners about these ministries - going into more detail about what each does as well as listing the above-described items requested by these ministries. They spoke about inserting the flyer into the bulletin or posting it on the committee's webpage.

The committee members considered writing up announcements regarding each of these ministries that parish Communications and Office Manager, Thea Munoz, could use when she needs to fill space in the bulletin.

Bill distributed a draft of a write-up that he created for the Listening House.

The committee members debated the option of collecting donations for the above-listed ministries at scheduled times throughout the year or collecting for each of them year-round. They determined that they would prefer to collect for each of these ministries year-round.

Committee Logo

The members discussed renewing their efforts to begin using the committee logo that Carmen created. They remembered they had planned to use the logo in the past but had been asked by former pastor Fr. Mike Byron not to use it until after the Parish Council had completed its strategic planning. The committee members realized that a lot of time has passed since this request was made so they felt they could begin using the logo. Mary, the committee's Parish Council liaison, volunteered to raise this issue at the next Council meeting.

The committee members also discussed submitting the logo to the parish office so that it could be used in future bulletin announcements.

Brittany's Place

Kendall reported that she brought the items donated by parishioners during the collection held in late October/early November to Brittany's Place, a shelter located on the east side of St. Paul that helps teenagers who are victims of sex trafficking. She said approximately one full box as well as two to three bags of items were donated.

Minnesota Health Plan

Bill distributed information regarding local Senator John Marty and Representative David Bly's Minnesota Health Plan - a single payer healthcare system financed by taxes that would cover all Minnesotans for their medical needs.

The committee members discussed the possibility of preparing an insert for the bulletin describing this in more detail if this issue gets discussed in the upcoming legislative session.

Bill noted that he continues to learn more about this issue since 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.

We Care Campaign

Chris reminded the committee members that the next We Care Campaign will take place the weekend of March 2 - 3, 2019. She asked them to think of suggestions for the three options that will be chosen for the Campaign. She stated that these will have to be decided at the next meeting.

Social Justice Library

The committee members discussed renewing their efforts to have the social justice library moved into Brioschi Hall. They expressed concerns that the library is not noticed by parishioners in its current location on the movable cart by the nursery. They decided to ask the parish's Pastoral Care Minister, Bonnie Steele, for her assistance with this upon her return to the office after her leave has concluded.

JustFaith Program

The committee members briefly discussed the JustFaith program that came up in the conversation held by the committee members who attended the Listening House fundraiser that took place at the end of November.

Chris reminded the committee members that she had e-mailed them materials which described the JustFaith program as a small-group experience involving prayer, study, dialogue and immersion as participants explore contemporary issues through the lens of Christian faith. She said the materials stated that the program is usually held in three phases - with each phase containing eight sessions. Phase One is Living Compassionately (Caring for the Poor), Phase Two is Living Justice (Caring for Each Other) and Phase Three is Living Simply (Caring for the Earth).

It was stated that Phase One of the JustFaith program will be held at Guardian Angels parish starting at the end of January and that it is possible that Phase Two and Phase Three might be held at St. Pascal's.

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 7, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Staff Lounge