

**Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church
Social Justice and Caring Committee
Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday, March 7, 2019**

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

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Margaret announced that the next American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held in Brioschi Hall at the parish on Monday, April 15, 2019, from 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Donation Closet

Chris reminded the committee members that, at the last meeting, they had discussed making improvements to the donation closet - including 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). Chris said that, previously, the following committee members had agreed to make a list for the following ministries:

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

Chris noted that Kendall had sent her the Brittany's Place list and Bill had distributed a write-up for the Listening House at the last meeting.

Margaret stated that she would submit the list for Merrick Community Services. Mary and Chris agreed to put together a flyer regarding these ministries which they will send to the committee members for their review.

The committee members renewed their thought that they should discuss the donation closet with members of the parish's Council of Catholic Women since this group is also involved in supporting the ministries for whom the parish collects donations. Martha volunteered to discuss this at the next Council of Catholic Women meeting.

Committee Webpage

The members noted that the committee's minutes used to get posted regularly on the Social Justice and Caring Committee webpage on the parish's website every time they were submitted to the parish office but that this no longer seems to happen. Chris said that she would contact Thea Munoz, the parish's Communications and Office Manager, and ask if the posting of the minutes could be resumed.

The members discussed the possibility of having absent committee member, Carol Berg, assist with the committee's webpage since she has experience in this area. Carmen stated that she would ask Carol about this.

We Care Campaign

Chris reported that, because last month's meeting was canceled due to inclement weather, the committee did not have the opportunity to choose the options for the "We Care Campaign" held the weekend of March 2 - 3, 2019. She said that she sent an e-mail to the committee members asking for suggestions and received one idea from Carmen and Martha - **Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties Reach Out for Warmth Fund** - an emergency fuel fund established to assist local households after energy assistance funds have been exhausted. Chris stated that she chose this option as well as the two following charities that the committee has supported in the past:

- **Joseph's Coat** - a free store located in St. Paul that provides goods and services to those in need and
- **Food for the Poor** - an ecumenical Christian non-profit organization that provides clean water, educational opportunities, emergency relief, food, healthcare and secure housing to the poor in Latin American and the Caribbean.

JustFaith Catholic Program

Fr. John and Anna reported that they and parishioner Ann Karner attended an informational meeting in Minneapolis regarding the JustFaith Catholic program that was discussed at the last meeting.

Fr. John distributed some materials which describe the program as being based on Catholic social teaching and designed to inspire small groups to embrace the gospel vision of justice and peace, inviting participants to revisit their relationship with God, neighbor and all of creation through reading, prayer, dialogue and direct outreach.

Fr. John and Anna described that the program is held in the following four phases consisting of six sessions each:

- Phase 1 - Compassion for People and the Planet,
- Phase 2 - Poverty at Home and Abroad,
- Phase 3 - Personal and Structural Biases and
- Phase 4 - From Violence to Nonviolence: A New Way.

They said that the phases do not have to be done in order but that it is preferable that they be done this way.

Anna stated that she and Ann are currently participating in Phase 1 of the program at Guardian Angels and they are finding it to be a wonderful and challenging experience.

Anna said that the groups consist of 10 to 15 people, the sessions last approximately 2 ½ hours and that she usually spends 4 to 5 hours outside of the meeting time working on the program. She stated that one can obtain all the required materials from the program.

Fr. John and Anna said that Phase I of this program may be brought to St. Pascal's this fall. Anna stated that she and Ann are willing to be the facilitators of the program - which may be offered during the day and in the evening. She said that the program provides step-by-step instructions for the facilitators.

Fr. John stated that the parish may be able to apply for a grant that would provide reimbursement for the costs associated with offering the program.

The committee members expressed their support of bringing this program to the parish.

ISAIAH Meeting

Chris mentioned that parishioner Toni Baker had forwarded an e-mail to her and Fr. John that Toni had received from a man named Bob Kessler in which he asked if St. Pascal's would be interested in hosting an ISAIAH meeting in April with District 67 legislative leaders who are gathering to discuss social justice issues. Fr. John said that he is open to this. He stated that he would contact Bob to obtain further information about the event.

Social Justice Library

Carmen renewed the discussion of having a permanent book shelf placed in Brioschi Hall to house the social justice library instead of the committee using the movable cart to store the collection near the nursery room. The committee members explained to Fr. John that they felt the library would be more visible to parishioners if it were located in a place like Brioschi Hall. This led to additional discussion of having a permanent library located in the parish that could house the social justice collection as well as materials from other parish groups - such as faith formation. The committee members liked this idea. Fr. John volunteered to discuss this with the staff.

Fish Fry

The committee members briefly discussed that, since the last meeting was canceled, they did not have an opportunity to choose a topic for the table tents that get placed in Brioschi Hall during the Lenten fish fry. Due to lack of time, they decided to re-use the Pope Francis quotes that were used several years ago.

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 4, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Staff Lounge