

**Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church
Social Justice and Caring Committee
Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday, February 6, 2020**

Present: Kendal Doom, Ann Karner, Christine Malec (minute writer), Margaret Malec, Fr. John Mitchell, Mary Weyandt and Julianne Wojick

Staff Change

Fr. John informed the committee that it was the last day for Bonnie Steele, the parish's Pastoral Associate for Social Justice. The members discussed the advantages of having somebody from the parish staff serve as a committee member - including having this person:

- assist with logistical issues - such as letting committee members into the building on meeting nights (Since access to the building can be challenging to non-staff, the members discussed the possibility of having to obtain fobs for entering the building if no staff person were to be assigned to the committee.),
- be able to assist with communication efforts - such as submitting bulletin/pulpit announcements,
- be on-site to deal with day-to-day issues that might arise,
- help focus the committee members and sustain their momentum,
- serve as a liaison between the committee and the parish and
- use his/her connections with parishioners to find volunteers and resources for the committee.

Recruitment of Committee Members/Volunteers

The committee members discussed various ideas to recruit additional members and/or volunteers to work on committee projects. These included:

- having the parish recognize various ministries at mass and having committee members available in the gathering space afterwards to respond to questions,
- hosting fellowship Sunday - using the opportunity to promote the committee,
- participating in a ministry fair,
- partnering with other congregations (such as Grace Lutheran) to work on issues (for example, Motel 6),
- personal invitation,
- placing a giving tree in the gathering space asking for items needed by the committee as well as volunteers for various tasks and
- putting notices in the bulletin providing specifics regarding what is needed for certain projects.

Compassion Kits for the Unsheltered

The committee members noted that all the compassion kits for the unsheltered that were put together have been taken and that more need to be made.

Chris reminded the committee members that Bonnie had mentioned that a parishioner contacted Bonnie and informed her that she would be interested in helping coordinate this project. Fr. John agreed to contact Bonnie to ask her the name of this parishioner.

Mary volunteered to work with Thea Munoz, the parish's Communications and Office Manager, to submit a bulletin announcement or insert asking for donations. (It was noted that it may be possible to re-use the bulletin insert that was used previously.) The committee members discussed having Fr. John make a pulpit announcement.

The committee members decided to collect donations during each night of this Lent's fish fry. Ann volunteered to locate a bin into which the donations could be placed and to set this out every Friday before the fish fry. Christine and Margaret agreed to remove the bin after the conclusion of the fish fry and to place the donations in the cage storage area. Fr. John agreed to check with the parish staff to see if there would be any conflicts with collecting donations during this time.

The committee members discussed arranging a time to put the kits together once the donated items were gathered - possibly asking the school students for assistance. Fr. John said that he could check with the school about this.

Fish Fry

The committee members agreed they would again place information regarding a social justice topic on the tables in Brioschi Hall during this Lent's fish fry. They chose the topic of homelessness/housing - focusing on Ramsey County.

Kendall volunteered to gather the information on this topic and Julianne agreed to help design the sheet.

JustFaith Catholic Program - Phase Two

Ann reported that Phase Two of the JustFaith Catholic program has begun. She stated that eleven parishioners signed-up for the program which takes place on Tuesday evenings. She remarked that most of the Phase One participants signed-up for Phase Two and the ones who did not continue did so due to reasons such as family responsibilities, health-related issues and scheduling conflicts.

Ann said that a decision will have to be made whether Phase Three of the program will be offered after Phase Two has concluded or in the fall. She stated that there is a possibility that the parish will offer Phase One and/or Phase Two instead of Phase Three. Ann said that she would consult with the participants to obtain their input regarding which option should be offered by the parish.

One Body

Ann and Mary discussed One Body, an organization whose goal is to teach others how to welcome the stranger and immigrant and how to treat them through the lens of Catholic social teaching.

They mentioned that the caucus training offered by One Body that was going to take place at the parish on Saturday, February 8, 2020, was moved to St. Mary of the Lake in White Bear Lake. (It was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020.)

Ann and Mary noted that the majority of One Body events take place in Minneapolis and that its current focus is on immigration-related issues. They commented that the parish might want to focus on needs important to the eastside of St. Paul - such as affordable housing and that it might be beneficial to partner with other congregations such as Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and/or St. Mary of the Lake.

They commented that it might be beneficial to utilize the faith agenda used by One Body (as well as ISALAH, a multi-racial, state-wide, nonpartisan coalition of faith communities fighting for racial and economic justice in Minnesota) or to focus on Catholic social teaching.

Ann and Mary agreed to continue attending the monthly meetings (which take place on the third Tuesday of the month). Fr. John stated that he will attend the priest meetings held by this organization when he has time.

It was decided that the committee would not agree to host any One Body events until after the parish has chosen a replacement to serve as the parish representative on the committee. In the meantime, Fr. John said that he would be willing to advertise One Body events in the bulletin.

Election Updates

Ann suggested that it may be helpful to notify parishioners regarding changes that may occur regarding Minnesota's primary election.

We Care Campaign

Christine reminded the committee members that the next We Care Campaign will take place the weekend of March 7 - 8, 2020. The committee members discussed various options for the Campaign:

- **Australian Wildfire Relief**,
- **Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative** - an organization working to end homelessness and advance equitable housing in the Twin Cities,
- **Catholic Charities U.S.A. - Puerto Rico Disaster Relief** - to assist those who are in crisis after recent earthquakes and hurricanes,
- **Dorothy Day Place** - a homeless shelter and social services center and

- **Mano a Mano** - an organization that creates partnerships with poor Bolivian communities to improve their health and increase their economic well-being - operating on the principles of accountability, competence, empowerment, frugality, partnership with local communities and volunteerism.

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, Catholic Charities U.S.A. - Puerto Rico Disaster Relief and Mano a Mano were chosen as the options.

Christine will submit bulletin announcements regarding the Campaign.

Faithful Citizenship Event

Mary proposed that since the parish was not able to host the One Body caucus training, this event could be replaced with a faithful citizenship-type event. The committee members liked the idea and decided to continue discussing this idea at their next meeting.

Caucus Training

Fr. John mentioned that a caucus training will be held at St. Thomas More Catholic church from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

Possible Change of Meeting Night

The committee members proposed switching their meeting day from the first Thursday of the month to another Thursday. However, due to scheduling conflicts with other parish groups meeting on the other Thursdays of the month, it was decided that the meeting night would remain the same.

Sr. Helen Prejean Event

Ann announced that Sr. Helen Prejean will be speaking about her work against the death penalty in the Rauenhurst Ballroom at St. Catherine University from 7:00 -9:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 27, 2020. She stated that the event is free-of-charge.

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 5, 2020, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Staff Lounge

Margaret volunteered to lead the prayer.