

**Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church**  
**Social Justice and Caring Committee**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday, July 9, 2020 (via Zoom)**

Present: Martha Arko, Christine Malec (minute writer), Margaret Malec, Fr. John Mitchell, Kim Roering and Mary Weyandt

**American Red Cross Blood Drive**

Margaret reported on the American Red Cross blood drive that was held at the parish on Monday, July 6, 2020, from 1:00 - 7:00 p.m. in Brioschi Hall. She said that the goal was forty-nine units and that forty-five were donated. She stated that, of the fifty-five people who signed up to donate, ten did not show up and eight were deferred from giving.

Margaret announced that the next blood drive will be held at Grace Lutheran on Monday, August 31, 2020.

**Faithful Citizenship Event**

Kim mentioned that the committee sub-group has been meeting to organize the faithful citizenship event that will take place on Tuesday, September 15, 2020, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. She said that the evening will begin with prayer, followed by a conversation between parishioner Anne Weyandt (Associate Professor of Education at St. Catherine's University) and Sr. Sharon Howell, CSJ (the Director of the Center for Spirituality and Social Justice at St. Catherine's University) regarding such issues as the dignity of life, faithful citizenship and social justice, then time for individual/small group reflection and large group discussion (lessons learned, next steps as individuals and as a group).

The committee members discussed changing the name of the event to "We Were Made for These Times" (based on an article with the same title that may be used during the evening).

The committee members discussed holding this event in Brioschi Hall or the church (noting that the church has the advantage of being able to utilize the new camera that has been installed there for livestreaming the event but also recognizing that this is a space usually reserved for worship). They also considered holding the event via Zoom and/or posting it on Facebook.

**JustFaith Catholic Program**

Kim stated that absent committee member, Ann Karner, provided her with an update regarding the JustFaith Catholic program. Kim said that Ann informed her that those who participated in the first two phases of the program agreed they would like to continue with Phase 3.

Kim noted that Phase 3 is in the process of being revised so it may not be currently available for use and that this new version may contain some duplication from Phase 2. Kim stated it may be possible for the participants to use the older version of Phase 3 or they could participate in one of the racism-related JustFaith Catholic program modules.

## **Parish Prayer Service**

Fr. John mentioned that he had spoken to Keri Mader, the parish's Pastoral Associate for Ministry, and Sharon Balcom, the parish's Pastoral Associate for Music, regarding the parish prayer service that is being planned in response to the need for healing after the recent events that have taken place in the Twin Cities following the death of Mr. George Floyd.

Fr. John said Keri found a "Prayer Service for Racial Justice" from Liturgical Training Publications that provides a plan for a service including the following parts:

- an introductory rite,
- an opening song,
- a sign of the cross,
- a greeting,
- an introduction (which could include the names of those killed as a result of racial violence),
- a penitential act,
- an opening prayer,
- Liturgy of the Word with readings from Isaiah, Psalms, Colossians and a gospel (Luke 10: 25-37 - the good Samaritan story),
- a homily (including pastor points),
- a moment of silence (perhaps for the length of time that George Floyd was struggling to breathe?),
- a universal prayer,
- the Lord's prayer and
- a closing prayer.

The committee members liked the prayer service and felt it could be used at the parish instead of having to develop a new one. Fr. John agreed to send a copy of the service to the committee members via e-mail for their further consideration.

The committee members discussed the possibility of having the prayer service on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. and that it would be held in the church as well as being livestreamed. (They noted that this date is the usual day for "National Night Out" but that this has been rescheduled on October 6, 2020). Fr. John will ask Keri and Sharon if this proposed date and time would work for them.

Mary stated that she will mention the prayer service to the Parish Council members and invite them to attend. She recommended that the other committee members invite others as well.

## **Women's Club Donation**

The committee members discussed a \$750.00 donation received from the parish's Women's Club to be used for social justice and/or racism-related issues - for some sort of educational purpose or direct aid (such as at a retreat, books for the social justice library or school, a donation to the food shelf like the one at Progressive Baptist etc.).

The committee members suggested that part of the donation could be used to pay the cost for using one of the JustFaith Catholic racism-related modules (approximately \$175.00). They also considered purchasing books for the social justice library - perhaps children's books dealing with the topic of racism. The committee members felt they could review the books contained on the various resource lists they have accumulated and vote on which titles to purchase.

### **One Body**

Fr. John reported that he continues to attend the One Body priest meetings and that there are a variety of issues on which the pastors would like to focus - such as the Immigrant Bill of Rights, pro-life, racism etc.

Fr. John stated that the Immigrant Bill of Rights is a piece of state legislation that strives to advance the dignity of all Minnesotans, regardless of their immigration status, by obtaining the right for immigrants to get a driver's license, have access to benefits such as child care assistance, medical care, work leave etc. and that it proposes to make Minnesota a sanctuary state.

The committee members noted that the Immigrant Bill of Rights could be tied in to the upcoming faithful citizenship event on which they have been working (asking parishioners to consider the stand that candidates take on this issue) as that it also fits in with the theme of the upcoming World Day of Migrants and Refugees and Immigrant Sunday Minnesota that will take place on September 26, 2020.

They discussed the possibility of putting a copy of the Immigrant Bill of Rights as an insert in the bulletin or providing a link to it in the parish's electronic newsletter, the *Pulse*.

### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, August 6, 2020, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., via Zoom

Fr. John or Kim will set up the Zoom meeting.

Kim volunteered to lead the prayer.