

June 1, 2023
Social Justice and Caring Committee
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Kim, Martha, Mary H., Mary R., Mary W., Chris M., Margaret, Chris I., Bill, Julie M., Julie L., Father John

Strategic Plan-Principle of Catholic Social Teaching

Mary W. shared a YouTube video entitled Solidarity With Our Neighbors.

<https://youtu.be/cteMjwOBPtw>

Common belief that everything and everyone is created by God and related to one another. Solidarity is a commitment to one another while being connected to the body of Christ. The more we show our solidarity in the world, we create the kingdom of God here on Earth.

Discussion:

We do not do for people, we do with people through relationships. We are all one body: when something happens to people in one part of the world it happens to the entire body of Christ. Video showed diverse cultures and leaders of service organizations throughout the world. We sometimes forget that solidarity refers to prayer, financial support, and advocacy. A 3-legged stool of action, information, and awareness. With social media there is no excuse for not knowing what is going on around us and in the world

Principles of Catholic Social Teaching series of videos and other resources from Catholic Relief Services - <https://www.crs.org/resource-center/CST-101>

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

Bill D. recapped the May 11th Maplewood neighborhood meeting for Gladstone Cossing. Architects, Solid Ground (services provider), and Beacon were in attendance to answer any questions regarding the planned housing. Received both positive and negative feedback from neighbors. Beacon will follow up with those who either need more information or just need to be heard regarding their concerns.

Ann K. and Julie M. attended the celebration for the passing of Bring it Home Minnesota bill, at Monster Lake Brewing. Although the original ask was \$2.5 billion, the bill passed with a \$46 million appropriation to cover 5,500 deeply affordable rental vouchers in the upcoming year. Huge success!

On June 14th, our team along with other Beacon members will present all the keys collected (from Unlock the Metro) at a press conference, at the Met Council offices. The keys will give a visual of all the people eligible for rental vouchers, but have not received them. Beacon team members will also attend a Met Council meeting following the press conference, hoping to get a policy approved for issuing Project Based Vouchers (PBV's). PBV's are essential to build deeply affordable housing, because they ensure that contractors get paid. Met Council is in charge of issuing PBV's and there is

no identified policy of how many vouchers will be distributed each year. Beacon will be pushing for a policy for distributing PBV's.

On June 20th, there will be a Maplewood Planning and Zoning meeting where they will approve the zoning permits needed for Gladstone Crossing. Those neighbors who are in agreement of the housing will either be in attendance or their letters they have written will be read. It's expected to be approved.

On July 10th, there will be a Maplewood City Council meeting where the Land Use permits will be voted upon. Beacon is hoping to get at least 75 people at the meeting and hoping to get as many Maplewood residents there as possible. It's expected to receive approval, but just in case it would be nice to have a huge show of support.

Mary H. mentioned that she had a Friday, June 2nd meeting planned with North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Superintendent, Christine Tucci Osorio, to discuss Beacon's Gladstone Crossing housing. Here are her comments from the meeting on Friday.

She is very enthusiastic about Gladstone Crossing. She said she has passion for the 18-24 year olds, so that really touched her heart. She was already talking it up to others as we went to another office in the building. She invited me to go to a rotary club meeting with her sometime if I'd like. She says they are a supportive bunch of folks. I felt really good about it all.

Listening House-June Donation

Items collected will be used for our Celebration of Service, Commitment and Generosity Dinner compassion kits. We will see what is collected and on June 19th, Julie M., Chris I., and Martha, will take an inventory and write down what is still need to make the kits. Will work with Kim to get a total number of kits that will be made and Julie M. will send out an email to all SJCC committee members to purchase those items still needed. Someone requested, when the email is sent out, reply all with what you intend to buy so that we have fewer duplicates.

NOTE: There have been so many donations for Brittany's house this month, we might have to look at bringing donations multiple times throughout the month, so that we do not run out of room in the donation closet.

We Care Campaign

Will be collecting June 3rd and 4th weekend.

Results from our last We Care Campaign is a total of \$2,086.07 was collected and all will be sent to the San Lucas Toliman Mission, in Guatemala.

Merrick Community Services Food Distribution

Distribution going well. Need more help on second shift when food is delivered. Collected 26 boxes of kleenex from parishioners to be used in this month's distribution.

Celebration of Service, Commitment, and Generosity Dinner, June 24th

Kim announced that the flyer is completed and will go out in the bulletin June 3-4th weekend.

Mary H., Mary W., and Father John have met to decide upon a restaurant and a menu. Decided to look at restaurants that are considered small local business, uphold dignity of workers rights and BIPOC owned. After looking at several they decided upon Afro Deli.

Here is the menu for the evening:

RICE ENTREE BUFFET

Somali Rice
Afro Steak Dinner
Chicken Fantastic
Veggie Curry
Afro Green Salad
Beef and Veggie Sambusas

The estimated cost is right around \$2,000, which the Lilly Foundation Grant will pay for.

It was decided to get the information out on how and why Afro Deli was chosen. Afro Deli ties in closely with our Social Justice principles and will provide a meal that shows diversity of food available within the Twin Cities. Will use group email that Mary W. has created and possibly Pulse, Bulletin, and Sign-up Genius to inform parishioners.

Work with Mike Kelliher with set up for the dinner and whatever else is needed.

-Kim will create table tents and placemats. Placemats will have more information on dinner menu, Lilly Grants, and trivia.

Father John and Chris M. created and sent information to Michael Keeting Ross of what our SJCC is currently doing now and throughout the year. This should assist him in his presentation at the dinner.

Mary W. will help with a Call to Action that will be announced to dinner attendees. This will hopefully get attendees more involved in a Social Justice cause.

Anne Weyandt, our special guest, gave a brief overview of what the Lilly Foundation grants are and what the grants should be used for.

- St. Kate's distributes the grants and St. Pascal's is a participating parish.
- Grants are to be used as outreach and to engage in discipleship.
- Allows parish's to create a vision on how to activate discipleship in the parish and the community it serves. Many resources available for parishes to use.

- Anne said the goal with the all the recipients of these grants (a member(s) from each parish) to meet weekly at St. Kate's to discuss church, spirituality, faith, discipleship as transitional people and leadership in community.

Discussion: Supportive and encouraging environment. This is different than the Archdiocese School of Discipleship, less prescriptive and more room for questions and discussion.

National Night Out

Mary W. has set up the first organizational meeting on June 8. More to come.

Produce Table

Julie L. is coordinating and has received positive feedback. Notices went out in Bulletin and Pulse for parishioners to let Julie know when they have extra produce they want to bring to church. It will be announced at Masses and will be in the gathering area on the produce table.

Next Meeting

July 6, 2023

Prayer-Mary H.