

July 6, 2023
Social Justice and Caring Committee
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Kim, Mary H., Ann K., Julie L., Chris M., Margaret M., Father John, Ann Madlung, Mary W., Bill D., Julie M., Mary R., Martha

Welcome Ann Madlung, our new member from Roberts, WI! Ann works at Catholic Charities as a Case Manager.

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

Overall, the discussion was positive and the evening was a success! Format worked well (same format as Mardi Gras dinner last winter). Food was great, Speaker, Michael Rios-Keating was great, and making compassion kits was fun and everyone joined in. Made slightly over 100 kits which didn't take long to complete the task with 100 in attendance. Ann K. delivered the compassion kits to the Listening House and they were overwhelmed with gratitude.

Comments made:

- Very well received from parishioners.
- Hard to get early registrations, mostly because of busy time of year, but many walk-ins came in from Mass.
- Mary W. thought it would be nice to continue this talk and bring it to the next level;
 - Specific calls to action
 - Why Afro Deli was chosen as food vender
 - Embrace generosity

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

On June 14th, our parish Beacon team along with other Beacon members met at Central Presbyterian Church in downtown St. Paul and marched to Met Council Offices about 5 blocks away. We held signs and chanted affordable housing for all, with a small press conference before we attended the Met Council Meeting. Beacon was first on the agenda and we presented all the keys collected from congregations and a short presentation was given to try and start the conversation regarding the need for a policy to distribute Project Based Vouchers. It was a success and a meeting is scheduled.

On Monday, July 10th, a group from our parish along with other Beacon members will be attending a Maplewood City Council Meeting at 7:00PM. We are all hoping to secure Land Use Permits needed to build Gladstone Crossing housing in Maplewood.

Merrick Backpack Drive

Mary W. announced that Merrick will be having a Backpack Giveaway on August 19th at Merrick.

There are several opportunities to participate:

- Donate new backpacks and/or school supplies

- One-time monetary donations for Merrick to purchase
- Become a collection site
- Volunteer Saturday, August 19 when the backpacks will be given away at Merrick
- Spread the word

It was agreed upon to send out an email (using the email list created by Mary W.) to inform parishioners about this opportunity and for them to donate as they wish. Work with Father John and Kim to get communication out.

Donation Closet

Blue bins were purchased to assist in organizing the plastic and paper bags used at Merrick and Progressive. This effort really helped in organizing the bags and making room available in the closet for other donations.

Other

Ann K. received many new volunteers at the July 1st Saturday Progressive food distribution and was very grateful.

Kim said that St. Catherine University is looking for parish participants who have used the Lilly Grants to come together on August 12, 8:30-4:30 to attend a Third Annual All Congregations Summer Retreat. Email Father John right away if interested.

Kim showed us a draft of an Event Planning & Responsibilities form that she created for people to use when wanting to use/rent space in church for an event. This is a very thorough checklist of responsibilities and duties that need to be covered when using/renting church space. Received good feedback.

Next Meeting

August 3, 2023

Prayer - Ann K