

**February 1, 2024**  
**Social Justice and Caring Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Kim Roering, Ann Karner, Julie Ludden, Julie Moore, Chris Igielski, Anne Weyandt, Mary Weyandt, Ann Madlung, Martha Arko, Father John, Chris Malec, Margaret Malec, Bill Dorgan

**Prayer:** Martha Arko

**Old Business Updates:**

**Beacon Interfaith Housing Cooperative:**

The weekend of January 27/28 our Beacon team held a postcard campaign at church. Parishioners were asked to fill out a postcard in support of the Family Supportive Act (SF673/HF910) and a constitutional amendment that would provide and sustain new housing and vouchers. 59 parishioners filled out postcards and 40 took them home to read up on the initiatives and mail if they were in agreement. Very good response.

**Merrick Food Distribution:**

A meeting was held January 31st, with Dan Rodriguez and Josh from Merrick to try and see if St. Pascal's can increase their monthly food distribution to 60 households. The cost of this increase would be \$500 plus \$120 per month. Kim and Father John would like to try this for a couple of months to see how it goes. Because Second Harvest would drop off to us directly, an agreement must be completed before this can start. This would also enable us to order directly through Merrick, and give us the ability to choose which items to order. This new arrangement would ensure that we continue our partnership with Merrick and the needs of our local community.

**Progressive Fishes and Loaves:**

Every week Progressive continues to provide food for a minimum of 100 families. Volunteers continue to show up every Wednesdays to pack food and help distribute food on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month.

**Donation Closet for March:**

Donations will be taken for Merrick. Will get a list of needed items that will be published in the Pulse and bulletin. March is Merrick's annual food drive (along with other food providers) with a goal of \$30,000. Donations can be made on website.

## **New Business Updates:**

### **On-call donations for Beacon Housing:**

This was discussed and it was decided since we already ask so much of our parishioners to participate and/or donate, we would table this idea for now and see if it fits better at some other time in the future.

### **March WeCare Campaign**

It was decided to take donations for these three organizations:

- Merrick Community Services: cash donations will be taken for March Food Drive.
- 30 Days Foundation-Ann Madlung suggested this foundation that she has worked with often. The 30-Days Foundation offers a variety of programs to help individuals and families who are in real-life financial crisis with a one-time grant to ease some financial burden.
- Joseph's Coat-Provides essential goods for those who are in need.

### **SJCC Buletin Board and Webpage:**

Currently the bulletin board is under construction and a meeting was held on February 5th to discuss future plans. The team will be mindful of getting the information to parishioners who are not techy, and will continue to have various ways information is distributed. One of the goals is to keep information visible and always drive people to our website for additional information.

Also noted, Chris Malec found the SJCC logo, in case there is interest in using it.

### **Donation Closet Renovation:**

A bid came back to renovate the large closet closest to the kitchen, and it is cost prohibitive at this time. Here are some other options:

1. Place everything in clear totes so that we can see what is inside. Just purchased totes, so most likely will not purchase additional clear totes.
2. In the short term, if current donation closet is full, cart them down to the basement storage (dungeon).
3. Deliver donated items more often so that the current donation closet does not fill to capacity. Could recruit more folks who could make deliveries if needed. Also, make sure that we get the bags out of the closet, since they seem to take up extra space.

### **Fish Fry Coupons or Vouchers:**

Discussed using Lilly funds to underwrite the cost of giving coupons or vouchers to monthly food distribution participants. Anne Weyandt said this was not an event that is applicable to using Lilly Funds, because in this event vouchers and/or coupons would be considered a pass-through, which Lilly funds do not cover.

**June 1st/2nd - Make compassion kits after every mass**

Plans are underway to make compassion kits after every mass. We will check to see if Listening House has a short video that we could play or maybe we could explain in either the Pulse or bulletin, what services the Listening House provides to the homeless community.

A question was brought up if we could provide donuts/snacks after every mass and if the Lilly Foundation could cover the cost?

**Next Meeting:**

March 7, 2024

**Prayer:**

Kim Roering