

Human concerns, Tuesday, October 3, 2025

In attendance: Fr. Ryan Ackmann, Terri Rach, Laura Freeburn, Julie Koenen, Dee Baumeister

Old business: Minutes from June 3rd were approved with a small edit: Terri Rach's name was misspelled on the first draft of the minutes.

New business: Fr. Ryan solicited ideas for who should be chair of the committee. No decision was made but the committee was encouraged to think about it.

Fr. Ackmann is planning to make an announcement regarding new leadership for the Human Concerns committee when the time/talent survey goes out. He will work with secretaries to identify candidates.

Meeting dates: The proposed 2026 meeting dates of February 3, June 2, and October 6 were approved.

Committee reports:

Outreach: Members of St. Joseph's purchased school supplies at the beginning of the school year to help ease the burden on teachers and students.

Pro-life: 20 adults and 5 children gathered for the Life Chain around St. Mary's on 10/5 and more at Fred's. Prayers have been taking place at Affiliated Medical Services and a life was saved last Friday, 10/3. November 5th is the fundraising gala for Life Choices in Burlington, at Veteran's Terrace.

TLC Meal Program: No updates

Love Inc. Meal Program: Continuing well

Pastoral Care: The three volunteers who take communion to homebound parishioners are managing well and continuing their work. Helping Hands and Caring Connections volunteers might be able to help take communion to the homebound; the committee plans to explore ways these ministries could work together.

St. Vincent de Paul: If people come to parish offices seeking social services, we refer them to SVP.

Prayer Network: Fr. Ryan will ask Sue about the next reset.

Catholic Teaching on Social Issues: Pope Leo's birthday celebration had a decent attendance. There was coffee and cake, and most people stayed for the video. Unfortunately, there were some technical issues. Fr. Ryan will put a link on the Facebook page so people can watch it at home. Small groups are going well.

Prison Ministry: The schedule for services has changed from Saturday to Thursday. The prison ministry is very rewarding and could be a good topic for a presentation or write-up someday.

Additional information: Attendance at Spanish Mass dropped by about a hundred over the summer, but has picked up. We will try to gauge interest in restarting English classes in a parish building, while considering school and safety concerns. Another school supply drive for second semester could be useful – maybe for Advent? "Teachers' Christmas List"?