

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

July 18, 2016, 7:00PM, Oscar Romero Room

Present: Mary Ross, Julie Haas, Sarah Swanson, Jarrett Wendt, Doreen Berg, Phyllis Craig, Deacon Ron Smith, Anne Owens.

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

I. SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE

- A. Call to Order – Mary called the meeting to order at 7 PM.
- B. Opening prayer – Deacon Ron led the Opening Prayer, *The Prayer of St. Francis*.
- C. Welcome, introductions. Jarrett Wendt, the new pastoral associate, was introduced.
- D. Anne Owens – Volunteer Center of Story County. Anne presented a brief synopsis of the Center's mission and activities. The Center is able to partner with organizations that are not overtly religious or political to provide volunteers and logistics for their programs. There are currently 64,000 individuals in their data base. The Center's mission can be described as one of advocacy, services, awareness, and philanthropy. For more information please visit www.vcstory.org.

II. BUSINESS MEETING

A. **The June minutes were approved by consensus.**

B. Correspondence.

Thank you notes:

MICA – For support of food pantry and for donation to dental clinic.

C. New business. None.

D. Unfinished business

1. Klingseis estate. Mary reported that she was told by Deacon Alan that the building of the new Friendship Ark home has been delayed because of issues dealing with the state's Medicaid financial partners. The money the parish donated, \$50,000.00, was used to purchase the lot for the home. It was suggested that we get an article in the paper highlighting the project and St. Cecilia's role in it.
2. Sister Parish. Since no one has come forward to lead the project, Mary will contact Glenmary and inform them that we will not be able to adopt a sister parish at this time.
3. Sudan Orphans. We are waiting for a business plan from Awein Majak regarding her vision for working with orphans in the Sudan.
4. Home for Awhile – Mary reported that there were six to seven applicants last month applying for one apartment. It is difficult deciding who will be chosen since so many are deserving of the opportunity.
5. Days for Girls – Mary said that an afternoon sewing group will be started in August. Blessman's goal of having 2,000 kits by September has been met. Thank you to Doreen for her very thorough and helpful spreadsheet showing St. Cecilia's accomplishments in the program.
6. Need board members or representatives for AMOS, Home for Awhile.
7. Pastoral Council – Sarah asked that we contact her if we want anything brought to the attention of the pastoral council when they meet. There was a discussion of inviting the external organizations that STCSJ supports to come to the church after Masses on a not-yet-designated weekend. Parishioners could then learn more about the organizations the parish supports. It could be in conjunction with World Mission Sunday but need not be. A coordinator for the project would need to be found.
8. Financial reports – Becca presented the financial report for June and July. The July report is as follows. Monetary Receipts: \$3,529.75, Estimated Value of Food

Shelf Contributions: \$782.40, Disbursements: \$4,428.33, Bank Balance as of June 30, 2016: \$82,839.79, Discretionary Funds Available: \$2,799.32, June FAF budget balance to be paid to FAF in July: \$398.47, July's Special Allocations: Birthright: \$275.00. Regarding the July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 budget, the budget was approved by consensus at the May meeting. The budget has been increased by 2.4 % compared to last year. Becca distributed graphs which showed SJ total receipts, third Sunday collections, and food contributions by year and month. Also, graphs were distributed showing the yearly collections from the GNEA Recycled Christmas Decorations Fundraisers and Rice Bowl collections. Thank you to Becca for doing a fantastic job as usual.

9. Committee reports:

- a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: **489** pounds in June (386# in 2015). *July 16/17 – Keith & Linda Huls; August 20/21 – Lynn & Terry Franco; September 17/18 – Chuck Habing*
- b. Hunger Coalition – No report.
- c. Food at First –Doreen. All is well.
- d. Good Neighbor – Phyllis stated that \$1,940.00 was raised at the JJ Kaufman concert, held May 20. It is hoped that GN will have the Tuscan dinner fundraiser for the healthy food vouchers but it is not for certain.*
- e. Restorative Justice – Mary reported that that The Garden Project at Mitchellville has been very successful. Alice Topalof will speak to our committee in August on the project.
- f. Individual Assistance – Ron stated that the individual we support from Ivory Coast should have his work permit sometime in August. He will still need our assistance for the next several months. St. Thomas will cover his rent for August and September. Ron estimated that the individual will need \$250.00 per month for miscellaneous items. **The committee agreed by consensus to fund a total of \$750.00 for July, August and September. The money will come from the remainder of the Thanksgiving collection and any shortfall will come from the discretionary fund.**
- g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie. Vic will retire August 4 and his replacement, Carrie Dunnwald, will start August 8. There will be a “Celebration of Vic” on August 28 at the Depot Deli.
- h. AMOS. No report.
- i. Gabriel Project – Bethany. No report.
- j. Sanctity of Life – Garland. No report.
- k. Additional issues. Deacon Ron called our attention to the *Called and Gifted Workshop* which will be held at the church on Friday, September 9 (7PM-9:30PM) and Saturday, (9AM -4 PM) September 10.

E. Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM with a much needed prayer, *A Prayer for our Nation's Election.*

*The Tuscan dinner will be held on August 21, starting at 6:00 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames. Tickets are \$35.00 each and can be obtained from Phyllis or the Good Neighbor office.