

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

September 19, 2016, 7:00PM, Oscar Romero Room

Present: Deacon Ron Smith, Becca Wemhoff, Barb Moore, Phyllis Craig, Mary Ross, Julie Haus, Sarah Swanson, Dick Tondra, Jarrett Wendt, Linnea Dolan, Cynthia Shriver

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

I. SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE

- A. Call to Order – Mary called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
- B. Opening prayer – Deacon Ron led the opening prayer.
- C. Welcome, introductions. Zehiel Mientkiewicz, the new coordinator for the Middle School Youth Ministry, stopped in and introduced himself to committee members.

II. BUSINESS MEETING

A. August minutes. **Minutes were approved by consensus.**

B. Correspondence

FINCA – Annual Report

Thank you notes:

Wellspring Missions

Birtheright

MICA (2) – for \$150 to Story County Dental Clinic

MICA (2) – for contribution to the Food Pantry

C. New business

1. Mission Weekend, Oct. 22/23, is a go. There will be a flyer in the bulletin the week before to invite parishioners to come. This is an outreach component of our committee to inform parishioners what Social Justice does and to which organizations we contribute.
2. Save the date- Christmas Market on Nov. 19 & 20. Registration forms will be available in the church office and church website on October 12 with a deadline of November 1. Social Justice's part is the recycled decorations. Please volunteer to help!
3. Respect Life and Social Justice formation: <https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/respect-life/respect-life-and-social-justice-formation-for-all/> The committee's initial thought on this program is to host monthly meetings. Deacon Ron would lead the meetings. Mary will look into the specifics of the program.

D. Unfinished business

1. Klingseis estate. No new information.
2. Sudan Orphans. Waiting for more details.
3. Outreach meals – For the school to do the meals it would cost \$5,000.00. The school could provide ~\$500.00. There is a do-it-yourself version that costs less. A question of minimum age was posed. Mary will learn more.
4. Home for Awhile – Mary stated the demand is still very high.
5. Days for Girls – Mary proposed having a fund raiser for the project at the Christmas market. We would sell tissue holders for pocket tissues and fudge.
6. Need board members or representatives for AMOS and Home for Awhile
7. Pastoral Council. Sarah hosted a table at Parents' Night at St. Cecilia School to recruit parents who might be interested in parish activities. Six people filled out the Time and Talent form. Sarah suggested we do the same thing during Mission Weekend. The necessary materials are prepared and available. The committee agreed and Sarah will host the table on Saturday and Julie on Sunday. Sarah spoke of a family in our parish who needs support in caring for a sick child. Sarah asked that we make an immediate donation and later brain-storm on how the parish can provide additional help (matching funds?) to the family. **By consensus, the committee agreed to donate \$500.00 to the family.** Sarah would also like us to have a discussion on how we can promote the "parishioners helping parishioners" concept. It could be something like a *Parish Assistance Ministry*. Several possibilities were discussed including a sign-up board in the Narthex that could list the needs of parishioners. It would

require a staff administrator to keep the board current and relevant. Sarah and Jarrett will work on a plan that can then eventually be brought to Father Jim.

8. Financial reports – Becca presented the financial report for September. Monetary Receipts: \$4,111.09, Estimated Value of Food Shelf Contributions: \$752.00, Disbursements: \$6,383.10, Bank Balance as of August 31, 2016: \$78,960.12, Discretionary Funds Available: \$1,488.96, August FAF budget balance to be paid to FAF in September: \$250.00, September’s Special Allocations: Catholic Charities: \$275.00, Haiti Fund (Holy Family Cluster), \$920.00.
9. Committee reports:
 - a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: **470** pounds in August. *September 17/18 – Chuck Habing*
 - b. Hunger Collaboration – We need a replacement for Marlene.
 - c. Food at First –Doreen sent a written report. FAF has expanded their Perishable Food Pantry to three days per week. Volunteers are needed M, W and/or F at 1-2 PM to help unpack, weigh, and shelf gleaned food. If you can drive a box truck, back up drivers are needed on the above days at 12:30 PM. If interested, please email Patty Yoder a Patty@foodatfirst.com or call 515-451-6967.
 - d. Good Neighbor – Phyllis has requested more money from us for GN. The Tuscan Dinner brought in \$3,000.00. The choir concert will be held on Sunday, November 6. To date, St. Cecilia’s is not participating.
 - e. Restorative Justice - Barb reported that Saturday morning services continue to go well. The Butterfly House is expected to have a resident very soon.
 - f. Individual Assistance- This month, Deacon Ron received requests for help with a glaucoma surgery and for car repairs. He currently has a family that is in dire need of a replacement vehicle. The individual we are supporting from the Ivory Coast is still waiting to receive his work permit.
 - g. Emergency Residence Project –Julie reported that the retirement reception for Vic Moss was well attended and a huge success. Carrie Dunnwald, the new director of ERP, has been applying for grants. The landscape plan for the backyard looks good. It is possible that the Kiwanis might want to help with funds for the playground. Cynthia and Julie will conduct the annual walk through of the transitional housing units. There are new federal standards for housing that ERP will have to meet.
 - h. AMOS-Need representative.
 - i. Gabriel Project – Bethany. No new information.
 - j. Sanctity of Life – Garland. The minutes of the September meeting were distributed.
 - k. Additional issues. Thank you to Father Jim for following up on Doreen’s question about renaming the Sun Room. The new name is Saint Mother Teresa Room.

D. Prayer/Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM with a prayer.