

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

June 19, 2017, 7:00PM, Oscar Romero Room

Present: Mary Ross, Doreen Berg, Deacon Ron Smith, Barb Moore, Cyndi Volcko, Sister Bridget, Sister Agatha, Julie Haas, Phyllis Craig, Sarah Swanson, Cynthia Shriver

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE

- A. Call to Order. Mary called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.
- B. Opening prayer. Ron led the opening prayer, *Prayer for Migrants and Refugees*.
- C. Welcome, introductions.
- D. In- Service. Cyndi Volcko presented information about Martha's House of Hope (MHoH), a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization in Ames. The house will provide shelter for pregnant moms, of any faith or even no faith, in need of help.¹

BUSINESS MEETING

- A. May minutes. Approved by consensus.
- B. Thank you notes:
 - Story County Dental Clinic – for \$150; for \$500
 - Primary Health Care – for \$100
 - MICA – for donation to food pantry
- Request for donation:
 - Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service. No action.
- C. New business
 1. Fr. Farrell. St. Cecilia will host Father Farrell on July 19 at 7PM, Oscar Romero Room: *Laudato Si- The Care of Our Common Home* and disparity of wealth.
 2. Bread for the World. A letter from Rev. Russ Melby, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, encouraged us, as a faith community group, to join a letter writing campaign to members of Congress. "Through this 2017 Offering of Letters, we urge Congress to make funding decisions that put our country and the world on track to ending hunger by 2030." <http://www.bread.org/2017-offering-letters>
 3. Clothing origins. An article appeared in the Catholic Messenger about being aware of where are clothing is made and under what conditions. <https://www.catholicmessenger.net/2017/03/be-aware-of-what-you-wear/>
 4. Catholic Mobilizing Network. Father Jim forwarded a letter from the Catholic Mobilizing Network explaining their fight against the death penalty.
- D.
 1. Respect Life and Social Justice Formation: [dbqarch.org/rlsi/formation](http://www.dbqarch.org/rlsi/formation). <https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/respect-life/respect-life-and-social-justice-formation-for-all/> A program is scheduled for July 26 in the St. Louis room. The topic is natural Family Planning Awareness. Deacon Ron is planning on having a display ready the weekend before the event. He has identified people who will help him.
 2. Individual Assistance guidelines effective July 1. Father Jim, Deacon Ron, Char and Mary met. There will be a separate line item for Individual Assistance and Social Justice will contribute \$400.00 per month to it. For needs not covered by the \$4,800.00 yearly allocation, Deacon Ron will use word of mouth to solicit additional donations. If this does not meet expectations, the subject will be revisited.
 3. Klingseis estate. No new information.
 4. Coffee sales for Honduras. June 25.
 5. Pictorial Directory. Doreen. Picture taking is completed. Individuals ordering only an 8x10 will be asked to pick up the photos. To update the church directory, cross referencing the photo-taking information with the church's data base and school information will be done. Individuals whose names can't be verified and updated will be contacted by phone.
 6. Need board member or representatives for AMOS
 7. Pastoral Council. Sarah. The Council decided to move forward on design and fundraising for the

remodeling of the Church. Building committees are being formed. After completion, the proposal will be sent to the diocese for approval. The process is a long one.

8. Financial reports. Becca. No report.
9. Parishioners' assistance. Sarah and Jarrett. No new information.
10. Committee reports:
 - a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: **395** pounds in May. Shop+1 was mentioned as a means of increasing donations.
 - b. Hunger Collaboration. Doreen. The Coalition will meet on Thursday.
 - c. Food at First. Doreen. Average monthly participation in meals served is up.
 - d. Good Neighbor. Phyllis. The annual choir concert will be held at St. Cecilia's on November 5.
 - e. Restorative Justice. Barb. Three more individuals were interviewed for the Butterfly House. The Story County Jail Ministry is getting participants. New presenters are being trained.
 - f. Individual Assistance. Ron reported that two requests for rent help have been denied and one request for gas has been approved so far in June. IA will be a line item on the general ledger beginning July 1. The guidelines will be used to determine whether to help or not. Simone will help keep track of the funds available and the names of those who have been helped. Parishioners can make contributions directly to Individual Assistance. The committee decided by consensus that the St. Cecilia help list should be updated to include information on 2-1-1, a service provided by United Way to connect individuals with local support and assistance. Also, by consensus, the list will be posted on the SJ bulletin board.
 - g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie. The Personnel Committee is working on health and life insurance. Since funding for Phase 1 of the backyard project was denied, the Property Committee is focusing on what absolutely needs to be done. The three items identified are the removal of the large tree, the installation of drainage tiles, and the removal of the garage. The Transitional Housing Committee is working on revising the client handbook. A strategic planning meeting will be held at St. Cecilia's.
 - h. AMOS. Need representative.
 - i. Sanctity of Life – Garland. Mary received a written report from Garland regarding their June 11 meeting. She emailed Garland's report to committee members. She mentioned that \$521 gross was collected by the selling of 260 carnations.
 - j. Rice Bowl - Cynthia. No new information.
 - k. Home for Awhile – Mary. There were six applicants for one available apartment.
 - l. Days for Girls – Mary. The sewing meetings have been moved to the Oscar Romero room and the new space is wonderful...more room and more storage.

D. Prayer/Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM with a prayer.

¹MHoH's Board is comprised of Catholics from both Ames parishes, although MHoH is not affiliated with either parish, nor the archdiocese. MHoH's Board of Directors is renting a house in Ames and planning to be ready for 2 residents by or before summer 2018. Sr. Bridget and Sr. Agatha, of the Society of the Infant Jesus, Cape Coast, Ghana, are visiting the home for 6 weeks in June and July to help build awareness for MHoH in the community and assess the suitability of their religious congregation to MHoH's mission.

MHoH's Board members have visited and will be seeking guidance from Bethlehem House in Omaha, a Roman Catholic organization of this type, with 14 years experience. In this initial phase, MHoH's Board is seeking donors who are willing to contribute \$25 or more on a recurring monthly basis to meet operational expenses, which are estimated to be \$5000 to \$6000/month. Informed Choices of Ames will be a referring agency to help pregnant moms connect with MHoH. Cyndi Volcko [515-451-4749](tel:515-451-4749) or cvolcko@gmail.com can be contacted for more information on becoming a monthly MHoH benefactor. (by Cyndi Volcko)