

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

December 18, 2017, 7:00PM, Oscar Romero Room

Present: Mary Ross, Doreen Berg, Deacon Ron Smith, Sarah Swanson, Jean Boot, Lynn Franco

Recorded By: Sarah Swanson

SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE

- A. Call to Order Mary called the meeting to order at 7:00PM
- B. Opening prayer – Ron led the opening prayer followed by a conversation reflecting on advent, small acts of kindness and the Second Coming.
- C. Welcome & introductions
- D. Guest Speakers- Story County Housing Trust- Dale VanderSchaaf & Trish Stauble

BUSINESS MEETING

- A. November minutes. The minutes were approved.
- B. Correspondence
 1. Thank you notes:
 - MICA- for contribution to food pantry; MICA gave food boxes to 348 families in November
 - ERP – for continued support
 2. Request for donation: Friendship Ark Homes
- C. New business- none
- D. Old business
 1. Giving Tree- Cindy emailed in to report that 417 tags were placed and picked up. All of the tags were all able to be fulfilled through the generous donations from school and parish individuals/ families, the FSA and the Social Justice Committee.
 2. The St. Vincent de Paul (Waterloo) clothing drive will be held Jan.27/28 and is being handled by the Parish Life Committee.
 3. Story County Housing Trust representatives Dale VanderSchaaf and Trish Stauble came to discuss their plans to raise funds to be able to move forward with a Low Income Housing Project (under 6 units due to Federal application constraints). They are looking to raise 100K to get the project off the ground. Starting in January they hope to apply to Story County Land Trust for possible funds. They currently have several properties which they rent out at 65%-70% of the normal rental income. They currently rent to two levels of income, those at 80% of the median income and those at 50% of the median income (median income in Story County being 40K/yr). Story County Housing currently partners with ACCESS and LSI on two of their rental units. All of their units are maintained by Martin Property Management as of 4 years ago.
 4. Respect Life and Social Justice formation will take place in Feb lead by Deacon Ron date TBD. dbqarch.org/rlsj/formation. <https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/respect-life/respect-life-and-social-justice-formation-for-all/>
 5. Klingseis estate- The group motioned to table any decisions at this point in order to see what opportunities the new year may bring.
 6. AMOS- no updates
 7. Pastoral Council – Sarah updated us on the new solar project that was presented to Pastoral Council at the November meeting. Power Packs will be sold at \$350 each allowing for a 20 year credit to be applied to your electric bill. Council is considering buying packs and possibly allowing parishioners to buy packs to be donated to the parish. More to come.

8. Financial reports & budget – Jean presented the financial report for November. Monetary Receipts \$3,584.55, Estimated value of Food Shelf Contributions: \$984.80, Disbursements: \$3,500.00 Bank Balance as of November 30, 2017: \$72,463.99, Discretionary Funds: \$4,074.43
9. Initiatives for Social Justice- It was encouraged for SJ members to be thinking on if there should be any changes to our SJ initiatives at the strategic planning session in Jan. No date has been set for the session at this time but it is usually on a Sat am in Jan.
10. Harvest of Blessings matching grant – Julie thanked SJ group via Mary for matching the \$500 Harvest of blessings grant being given to ERP.

E. Committee Reports

- a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: **485 pounds in December.**
 - b. Hunger Collaboration- no updates
 - c. Food at First –Doreen reported that about 600 people ate at the Thanksgiving meal and approx. 2000 gifts were distributed at the pass along party this year.
 - d. Good Neighbor – Phyllis- no updates
 - e. Restorative Justice - Barb- no updates
 - f. Individual Assistance – Deacon Ron reported that he has had several requests for individual assistance mostly in the form of gift cards or gas. Requests are up but that is normal given the month/ time of year.
 - g. Emergency Residence Project – please see attached updates from Julie.
 - h. Sanctity of Life – please see attached updates from Garland.
 - i. Home for Awhile – Mary- no updates
 - j. Days for Girls – Mary informed the group that Days for Girls has distributed over 2000 kits since April of 2015, very remarkable!
11. Additional concerns- none
 12. Prayer/Adjournment- Deacon Ron closed with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 9pm.