

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

April 20, 2015, 7:00PM, Sunroom

Present: Mary Ross, Julie Haas, Marlene Weishaar, Doreen Berg, Deacon Ron Smith, Todd Clancy, Cynthia Shriver

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

I. SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE

- A. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mary.
- B. Opening prayer – Ron led the opening prayer. *Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for 2015*
- C. Welcome, introductions. NA
- D. In-Service - Faithful Citizenship: P. 23, #80 *Affordable and Accessible Health Care*
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/upload/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf> Ron distributed several documents for us to discuss. *Principles of Catholic Reform Teaching and Health Care Reform by Archbishop Joseph Naumann and Bishop Robert W. Finn; Abortion in the Affordable Care Act: Responses to Administration Claims, US Conference of Bishops.*

II. BUSINESS MEETING

- A. March minutes. The minutes were approved by consensus.
- B. Correspondence:
 - Thank you notes – MICA for food pantry; YSS for Christmas Gifts
 - Newsletter: Grassroots Coalition
- C. New Business
 1. May Social Justice newsletter. The newsletter will feature the *Days for Girls* sewing project.
- D. Unfinished business
 1. Request for parish office fund from Char. The staff has withdrawn their request.
 2. Parish Tithing Committee. Todd reported that discussions are ongoing.
 3. Klingseis estate - please fill out form. Mary distributed a form to committee members to indicate their preferences and thoughts regarding the use of the Klingseis estate funds. She will compile the information and present it at our next meeting. If you do not return it to her tonight, please have it to her by this Thursday, April 23.
 4. ERP 4-Plex Renovation - Report from Deacon Alan. Progress on the unit is proceeding nicely. There are volunteers working on the weekends and the "retired folk" working throughout the week. Lunch on Saturdays has been provided by a number of groups.
 5. Sister Parish. The parish's sister parish leadership is still under discussion. No final decisions have been made.
 6. Home for Awhile – Mary reported that the board is interviewing four individuals for the one available spot at the home.
 7. Days for Girls – Mary, Doreen & Julie. The initial meeting was held and there was excellent attendance. The group will next meet on Tuesday, May 12, in the Sun Room. Mary distributed an information sheet which describes the project in detail and lists contact information for the area team leaders. Individuals can work at home and/or at the group gatherings.
 8. Need representatives for Food at First, Ames Ecumenical Housing, AMOS, Home for Awhile. Julie has contacted someone for the Ames Ecumenical Council but has not received an answer. The search for representatives for the other organizations is continuing.
 8. Pastoral Council – Todd. Please see D.2 and D.5.
 9. Financial reports – Becca. No report. Becca was ill.
 10. Committee reports:
 - a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: **331** pounds in March [correction: **586 pounds in February**]
April 18/19 – Tom & Dorothy Sally; May 16/17 – Check Habing
 - b. Hunger Coalition – Marlene. No report. Diana Weber is the official rep for the children's summer program.
 - c. Food at First –Doreen, Cynthia, Julie, Cindy. Both the meals and the market have now moved to the First Christian Church. Any issues that arose have been or will be addressed.
 - d. Good Neighbor - Doreen reported that the building of the handicap access ramp is in progress. ACCESS is scheduled to move in at the end of June to the second floor of the GN building. Mike Fritz, Director, has put together a packet for clients to help them receive legitimate tax assistance and thereby prevent them from using services that are predatory.
 - e. Restorative Justice - Ron stated that Barb Moore is looking for more volunteers to help with the Saturday morning program. The first meeting for volunteers has been scheduled.
 - f. Individual Assistance – Ron reported that the need is there but the funds are not.

- g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie. The Board is continuing to investigate options for offering health insurance to employees. Shari Reilly proposed that the Shelter seek out funding from the Iowa Finance Authority Program, which is a state government agency which deals with housing issues.
 - h. AMOS is hosting its annual fundraiser on Sunday, April 26, at 3:00 PM at the Actors’ Building. Please see their website for more information.
 - i. Gabriel Project –Thank you, Bethany, for sending the report.. There will be a refresher/orientation showing of the Gabriel Project. National Director Dr. Marcella Colbert's, talks in the **St. Francis Room** at St. Cecilia's on **Saturday April 25, 3:30 - 4:30 pm and Sunday April 26, 1:00 - 3:00 pm**. Please contact Bethany with questions or concerns.
 - j. Sanctity of Life. Garland. The minutes of the last meeting were distributed. The next meeting will be on the second Sunday in May @9:30 AM.
 - k. Additional issues. April is *Sexual Assault Awareness Month*. A fact sheet from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center was distributed.
- E. Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM with a prayer.