

# Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

May 18, 2015, 7:00PM, Sunroom

Present: Mary Ross, Julie Haas, Barb Moore, Deacon Ron, Doreen Berg, Marlene Weishaar, Lynn Franco, Cynthia Shriver

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

## I. SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE

- A Call to Order – Mary called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.
- B. Opening prayer – Ron led the opening prayer using a video about the moral injury sustained in war.
- C. Welcome, introductions. NA
- D. In-Service – Veterans. We had an excellent discussion regarding the psychological and spiritual trauma of war. Thanks to Deacon Ron and Deacon Alan for the information they provided. [militaryoutreachusa.org](http://militaryoutreachusa.org), [invisiblewoundsofwar.org](http://invisiblewoundsofwar.org)

## II. BUSINESS MEETING

- A. April minutes. The minutes were approved by consensus.
- B. Correspondence:
  - Thank you notes – MICA for contribution to food pantry and \$150 to Dental Clinic
- C. New Business
  - None
- D. Unfinished business
  - 1. May Social Justice Newsletter – Days for Girls and photos of ERP renovation. A description of DFG was in the bulletin last week along with a request for donations of items to be used or included in the kits. Photos of the newly renovated ERP transitional housing unit were also in the bulletin. Thanks to the volunteers who cleaned and to Bill Haas taking the pictures
  - 2. Parish Tithing Committee. The committee will meet on Thursday. Doreen will be attending the meeting.
  - 3. Klingseis estate – summary of opinions. A summary of the options for using the money generated by committee members at the April meeting, was presented by Mary. She asked that we give a thoughtful look at the data.
  - 4. ERP 4-Plex Renovation – Open House for “St. Cecilia” apartment on May 10. An open house for the completed renovation of the first unit was held. A mom and her seven children will be moving in immediately. Cornerstone and Collegiate Methodist will fund the renovation of two more units. Three congregations, Harvest Vineyard, ReNew Church, and Ascension Lutheran, will share the cost of the last unit. Christ Community Church and St. Thomas will provide funding for the re-roofing of the apartment building as well as the men’s shelter next door. Thanks to all who donated to or volunteered to work on the project. A big thank you to Julie Haas for bringing the issue to the attention of Deacon Alan and to Deacon Alan for taking on the project including finding the funds, coordinating the volunteers, and managing the work.
  - 5. Sister Parish - Julie on previous parish. Julie researched and retrieved information regarding the parish’s former sister parish, St. Maximillian Kolbe in Honduras. There were three major components to the relationship; spiritual, cultural and financial. Regarding the financial commitment, it appears that \$500.00 was sent annually from general parish funds. After much discussion it was agreed **by consensus that Mary relay to the Pastoral Council that this committee believes that the Sister Parish should be a standing committee reporting directly to the Pastoral Council rather than a sub-committee of Social Justice.**

6. Home for Awhile – Mary. New resident chosen. Mary stated that they are doing good work. The women are mentored. There is no new information regarding the possibility of adding another apartment to the program.
7. Days for Girls – Mary, Doreen & Julie. Meeting on second Tuesdays of the month. The May meeting was well attended. The next meeting will be June 9 at 7:00PM in the Sun Room. Mary will ask Father Jim whether we can donate the hygiene gets to the Blessman Ministries in Des Moines. They will pay the shipping costs. We were told that there is an endless need for the kits.
8. Need board members or representatives for Food at First, Ames Ecumenical Housing, AMOS, Home for Awhile. Julie reported that Dick McCoy has agreed to be St. Cecilia's representative to the Ames Ecumenical Housing Corporation. Regarding Food at First, Doreen will speak with Chris Martin to get a better understanding of what is expected of a board member at FAF.
9. Pastoral Council – Todd. No report.
10. Financial reports – Becca. No report.
11. Committee reports:
  - a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: **445** pounds in April, *April 18/19 – Tom & Dorothy Sally; May 16/17 – Chuck Habing*
  - b. Hunger Coalition – Marlene stated that the coalition continues to work on identifying the root causes of poverty and in finding solutions. The summer program in Ames will run from June 1 to July 8 and in Nevada from June 8 to July 16. A number of organizations, Food Bank of Iowa, Mary Greeley Food Service, and the Nevada School District, will be providing the food.
  - c. Food at First –Doreen, Cynthia, Julie, Cindy. The transition for the meals and market programs to First Christian Church went smoothly. All is proceeding well.
  - d. Good Neighbor - Doreen reported that some funding for the gas voucher program from Rotary has been lost. However, the good news is that GN has been selected as a recipient of Northcrest Community Outreach funds. The wheelchair accessible ramp has essentially been completed but there still remain mandated changes from the City of Ames' second inspection.
  - e. Restorative Justice - Barb/Ron. Barb is in charge of scheduling volunteers but not mentoring. The Saturday services have been well attended. She believes that the program is going well.
  - f. Individual Assistance – Ron. Requests are being addressed.
  - g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie. The Executive Director's job description has been approved by the Board. Staff benefit packages continue to be discussed.
  - h. AMOS. No information was available regarding the success of AMOS' recent fundraising project.
  - i. Gabriel Project - Bethany. Walk for Life on June 20 at Ada Hayden Park. There will be a sign up table after Masses.
  - j. Sanctity of Life – Garland submitted the minutes of the last meeting and they were included in the committee's packet. Thank you, Garland.
  - k. Additional issues I. Community that Works will host a presentation by AMOS on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of May after the FAF meal. II. Ron announced a Veteran's Retreat at the American Martyrs Retreat House in Cedar Falls on June 19-21. Please see Deacon Ron for more information. III. Cynthia reported the 2015 Rice Bowl results. Total \$2,998.00. This includes \$602.00 from the school and \$256.00 from Kathy Wipf's class awareness/fundraiser. Thank you to all who participated. There will be a bulletin announcement of the total. Thank you notes have been sent to the school and to Beth.

E. Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.