

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

February 15, 2016, 7:00PM, Sunroom

Present: Julie Haas, Phyllis Craig, Deacon Ron, Jo Anne Dalhoff, Doreen Berg, Mary Ross, Marlene Weishaar, Barb Moore, Clair Aitchison, 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. A Week of Prayer for Lenten Devotions was distributed.
- C. Welcome, introductions. Claire Aitchison, substituting for her mother, Dawn, was introduced.

II. BUSINESS MEETING

A. December minutes were approved by consensus.

B. Correspondence:

Thank you –

- ACCESS - \$250
- Habitat for Humanity - \$500 (The \$500 donation was not from Social Justice)
- Friendship Ark - \$50,000 (Klingseis estate)
- YSS – \$250
- Appalachia Committee

C. New business

One Heart Catholic Missions – Dawn Aitchison. Clair Aitchison presented an excellent report on her visit to Nicaragua in January under the One Heart umbrella. Among the activities were visits to a prison for men and one for women. There will be two trips in March, one for college students and the other for high school students. The high school trip will be composed of parents and students from STC and STA. Although we cannot give funds from SJ to One Heart anyone who would like to donate privately should contact Dawn Aitchison. Funds are needed to purchase books for the prison ministries and toiletries and snack foods for home visits.

Day of Service – Anna: Middle and High School. Anna Steele would like to plan a day of service for middle and high school students. It was suggested that Anna contact Tom Fenton at STA to discuss possibilities for helping at Food at First. Marlene suggested that the group(s) could do yard clean-up and disposal for individuals who need assistance. Also, it was mentioned that the SJ committee still has scholarship money available for mission based work service trips.

D. Unfinished business

1. Donation. The Pastoral Council has earmarked \$20,484.00 from a recent bequest to the parish for social justice. No committee action was taken. The SJ Committee is very grateful to the council for their generous earmarking of funds to extend the social justice ministry of the parish.
2. Klingseis estate. In an email sent to Mary, Deacon Alan reported that the \$50,000.00 donation to Friendship Ark from the Klingseis estate has been used to purchase the land for the new home. Deacon Ron hopes to start construction in June but he has not yet received approval from the Board.
3. Sister Parish – Glenmary Missions; looking for leadership. A question was raised whether parishioners understand what is involved. A suggestion was made to check the Glenmary Missions website, pull out the description of what is expected, and include a “job description” in the bulletin.
4. Home for Awhile – Mary; Catholic Schools Week fundraiser. St. Cecilia schoolchildren raised \$498.45 for the group. Thank you! Mary said there is a constant demand for apartments.
5. Days for Girls – Mary – Cornerstone is thinking about setting up their own sewing group. We have received several donations of fabric.
7. Need board members or representatives for AMOS, Home for Awhile

8. Pastoral Council – Sarah. No report.
9. Financial reports – Becca. No report.
10. Committee reports:
 - a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: **285** pounds in December; **264** pounds in January. *Feb. 20/21 – Keith & Linda Huls; March 19/20 – Tom & Dorothy Sally.* Food donations have been down recently at the parish while demand is up at MICA.
 - b. Hunger Coalition – Marlene. The Hunger Coalition met in January. Required by the State of Iowa every five years, a community assessment was conducted. The three priorities that were determined were hunger/healthy living, access to mental health/crisis services, and healthy life styles/physical activity. More information is at <http://www.storycountyqol.org/> A survey to assess the needs of the community with the service being provided will be done. Recent data collected by the U.S. Department of Human Services reported that the percentage of individuals who are low income and do not live close to a grocery store (one mile for non-rural areas and ten miles for rural) is 7.6.
 - c. Food at First –Doreen. The program continues to grow. Doreen stated that the program cost ~\$5,000.00 per month
 - d. Good Neighbor – Phyllis. Donations are down. Any increase in funds from faith groups would be appreciated. The new Board president is Steve Hanlin and vice-president is Jere Maddux.
 - e. Restorative Justice - Barb. Jim Kurtenbach is now coming to the Saturday morning services at the prison. St. Cecilia School is doing a fundraiser for books (puzzle books, spiritual mysteries, etc.) for the prison. Butterfly House has lost its house mother. There is currently one resident with several other women being interviewed. The house can accommodate one housemother and four residents. Mentors are needed and a request will be placed in the bulletin.
 - f. Individual Assistance – Ron. Things are going well for the person we are helping from the Ivory Coast. He is applying for refugee status. STA has agreed to pay for three months of rent.
 - g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie. Vic is stabilizing the foundation in the house and covering floors. The ERP board decided to increase the maximum amount of money that can be given to a family for homelessness prevention from \$350.00 to \$375.00. Julie will request a report from Vic on how the \$2,600.00 the committee recently gave to ERP was spent. This one-time donation is in addition to our monthly contribution.
 - h. AMOS. Looking for a representative.
 - i. Gabriel Project – From the minutes provided by Bethany. There are ads on all buses in the fleet. The Gabriel project is looking for a coordinator. Names should be sent to Beth Herblet. Three babies were born over the late summer, fall, and Christmas season. Moms and babies are doing well.
 - j. Sanctity of Life – From the minutes provided by Garland. Babysitters are needed Saturday, April 2 from 9 to 1. The children’s’ mothers will be attending Gabriel Angel training. Details for the Vicki Thorne presentation, which was moved from last fall to this fall, are coming.
 - k. Additional issues. Cynthia reported that although donations to the Alternative Gift Market at the church were down, ~\$20,000.00 was raised community-wide. Also, CRS Rice Bowl materials and bulletin announcements are in place.

D. Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer.