

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

March 21, 2016, 7:00PM, Sunroom

Present: Julie Haas, Barb Moore, Deacon Ron Smith, Sarah Swanson, Doreen Berg, Marlene Weishaar, Mary Ross, Becca Wemhoff, 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 and we watched the Pope Francis' video on families. We were asked to reflect on how we can support the Pope's wish to strengthen and protect families.
- C. Welcome, introductions-None
- D. In-service – Deacon Ron- See above.

II. BUSINESS MEETING

A. February minutes. **The minutes were accepted by consensus.**

B. Correspondence:

Thank you –

- MICA- for Dental Clinic donation; food pantry (notes decrease in food stamps)
- NAMI – for \$250
- Home for Awhile – for CSW donation
- Birthright for \$525
- Sisters of St. Francis - \$208.70 for Sister Water Project (listed in Year of Mercy flier)

Request for Donations & participation– Home for Awhile

C. New business

1. Request from by Fr. Jon Seda from St. Thomas and Fr. Ken Glaser from St. Stephen the Witness Student Center at UNI. Mary will write and ask what kind of projects the students participate in that are related to Social Justice.

D. Unfinished business

1. Donation - Money for ERP (Harvest of Blessings matching grant). **By consensus, the committee agreed to commit \$480 from the new estate donation towards the funds needed for the matching grant for the ERP application to Harvest of Blessings.**
2. Klingseis estate. No additional decisions.
3. Sister Parish – Glenmary Missions; flier in bulletin. No one has contacted Mary about being a leader for the Sister Parish program. Father Jim will be consulted.
4. Home for Awhile – Mary. The open apartment has been given to a man with three sons.
5. Days for Girls – Mary. Harvest of Blessings matching grant. **By consensus, the committee agreed to donate \$350 towards the \$500 needed for the matching funds for the Harvest of Blessing grant.** The remaining \$150 has/will be covered by private donations.*
7. Need board members or representatives for AMOS, Home for Awhile
8. Pastoral Council – Sarah. The big topic for the council is what do we need in order to improve our space. The number one issue appears to be meeting/program rooms. Three suggestions came out of the Facilities Committee and the Finance Council. a. Build a room between the Narthex and the chapel, b. Combine the staffs and meeting rooms of the church and school and c. renovate the worship space.
9. Financial reports – Becca. Monetary Receipts: \$23,564.78, Estimated Value of Food Shelf Contributions: \$646.40, Disbursements: \$3,960.46, Bank Balance as of February 29, 2016:

\$85,369.19, Discretionary Funds Available: \$5,296.59, February FAF budget balance to be paid to FAF in March: \$375.00. March's Special Allocations: \$275.00 – Catholic Charities, \$250.00-Ames Ecumenical Housing Council, \$50.00-AMOS. The January and February financial reports were also distributed and reviewed. Please see the financial reports for the details.

10. Committee reports:

- a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: **404** pounds in February. *March 19/20 – Tom & Dorothy Sally; April 16/17 – Chuck Habing.* Mary will ask Bob if there is a more visible space where we can put the (food) cart on Good Samaritan weekends.
- b. Hunger Coalition – Marlene. No report.
- c. Food at First –Doreen. **By consensus, the committee agreed to allocate \$90.00 to purchase dessert bowls for FAF.**
- d. Good Neighbor – Phyllis. No report.
- e. Restorative Justice - Barb. Saturday services are still going on with varying levels of participation. Butterfly House has a new housemother. Currently there is one resident and things are going well.
- f. Individual Assistance – Ron. There are still needs and Deacon Ron can take some and others he cannot take. The individual from the Ivory Coast that we are helping is doing well and hopes to have permission to work in 180 days.
- g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie reported that Vic will retire in July. He will be receiving an award at the Housing Conference. There are several lots that Dale Vander Schaff is looking at as sites for building affordable housing. The basement at the ERP house will be renovated. There are two apartments with a shared kitchen. Money for the project was covered by CPC and a Kiwanis grant.
- h. AMOS-Need representative from our parish.
- i. Gabriel Project – Bethany. No report.
- j. Sanctity of Life – Garland. Garland sent the minutes to Mary. The Patient's Rights Council suggests visiting with your personal doctor on the issue of assisted suicide. A poll released by the DesMoines Register indicated that 54% of Iowans are in favor of assisted suicide. The change in stance of the California State Medical Association (from against to neutral) gave way to the state passing the assisted suicide bill. The issue will be addressed again at the April meeting.
- k. Additional issues

D. Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm with a prayer.

*Mary received a letter in April stating that the grant request for Days for Girls was not approved by the diocese. The letter stated that there were many more requests received this year so decisions were made based on the goals of the program.