

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

August 15, 7:00PM, Oscar Romero Room

Present: Mary Ross, Julie Haas, Jarrett Wendt, Doreen Berg, Deacon Ron Smith, Barb Moore, Alice Topaloff, 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 PM with a prayer.
- B. Welcome, introductions. Alice Topaloff, tonight's speaker, was introduced.
- C. Alice Topaloff. Alice, who is part of the Local Foods program section of ISU Extension, spoke about the work the Local Foods Team and the ISU Landscape Architecture program are doing at the Iowa Correctional Institute for Woman (ICIW) in Mitchellville. The program is in its first phase, establishing gardens that the women can work in. This year there were 2.7 acres in vegetables and 0.45 acres in cover crops. The food goes to the ICIW, the Des Moines food bank and Des Moines Area Religious Council. The program is designed to not only have the women work on something but also to connect them to the local food scene and to increase their job skills which should soften their re-entry into the outside world. The program hopes to have a greenhouse in the future. Presently, what is planted depends on donations from local businesses.

II. BUSINESS MEETING

A. **July minutes were approved by consensus.**

B. Correspondence. NAMI newsletter.

Thank you notes: Primary Health Care

C. New business.

1. Father is fine with us having a fair during Mission Weekend to highlight the outside- the-parish organizations that we support. It will be held after all weekend masses, October 22/23, which is Mission Weekend. It will be discussed at pastoral Council at the next meeting.
2. The Social Justice Newsletter will be in this weekend's bulletin.

D. Unfinished business

1. Klingseis estate. No new information.
2. Sister Parish. Mary wrote a letter to Glenmary informing them of our inability to have a sister parish at this time.
3. Sudan Orphans. We are waiting for a business plan from Awein Majak regarding her vision for working with orphans in the Sudan.
4. Home for Awhile – Mary reported that there are more applicants than apartments. Donated furniture is being stored at the former Appalachia Program warehouse.
5. Days for Girls – Mary said that an afternoon sewing group is in the works. 65 kits were donated to Blessman's this month. The Colo sewing group has disbanded. They donated material and \$200.00 to our group.
6. Need board members or representatives for AMOS, Home for Awhile. If anyone wants information on AMOS' recent activity, please contact Mary.
7. Pastoral Council – Sarah reported via email that at the next Pastoral Council she will request approval from the Pastoral Council to move forward with the Mission Fair in October and will "... ask for the council's permission for me to attend FSA (Family School Association) activities at the school and to host a table with a sign that reads {How can I get more involved with St. Cecilia Church?}. At the table would be a one page time and talent form they could fill out. I have already spoken with Char in the office and she is

going to be getting me the form by the first week in September which is back to school parents night. I am also going to ask for two minutes to speak at this event to ask for parents to visit my table if they are interested in getting more involved or registering at the church. I think even if we could get a couple interested it would be worth it.” Sarah asked that if there are other subjects anyone would like to have her bring up at the meeting to please contact her.

8. Financial reports – Becca presented the financial report for August.
Monetary Receipts: \$3,496.96, Estimated Value of Food Shelf Contributions: \$635.20, Disbursements: \$5, 104.66, Bank Balance as of July 31, 2016: \$81, 232.09, Discretionary Funds Available: \$2,211.61, July FAF budget balance to be paid to FAF in August: \$245.48,
9. Committee reports:
 - a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: **489** pounds in June (386# in 2015). *July 16/17 – Keith & Linda Huls; August 20/21 – Lynn & Terry Franco; September 17/18 – Chuck Habing*
 - b. Hunger Coalition – Mary stated that a representative from The Outreach Program, a group that packages food for the hungry all over the world, has communicated with her. Mary will ask Principal Rowland if this is something the students might want to do. More information is at www.youmustact.org.
 - c. Food at First –Doreen. Over 4,000 cups of corn were prepared and frozen. The thank you reception for volunteers went well.
 - d. Good Neighbor – The Tuscan Dinner, a fundraiser for Good Neighbor, will be held August 21 at UUFA. For tickets, please contact Phyllis or call the Good Neighbor office.
 - e. Restorative Justice – Barb is accompanying Hannah to the Mitchellville facility to interview potential clients for the Butterfly House. The Story County Jail ministry is doing well with more individuals coming to the services.
 - f. Individual Assistance – Ron stated that there is the normal level of activities.
 - g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie. There will be a “Celebration of Vic” on August 28 from 2-4 PM at the Depot Deli. Julie was able to get a number of musical groups to perform at the celebration.
 - h. AMOS. No report.
 - i. Gabriel Project – Bethany. No report.
 - j. Sanctity of Life – Garland. No report.
 - k. Additional issues. Doreen asked about the status of renaming the Sun Room. She does not want the subject to be forgotten. Jarrett said that an individual in the RCIA program that comes from Cornerstone Church asked if the parish has a kind of forum where parishioners can list what they need and receive help from other parishioners. Unfortunately, diocesan guidelines dealing with insurance issues, prevents St. Cecilia from doing something like this.

E. Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM with prayer.