

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

November 21, 2016, 7:00PM, Oscar Romero Room

Present: Mary Ross, Deacon Ron Smith, Charles Bernhard, Doreen Berg, Sarah Swanson, Barb Moore

Recorded by: Doreen Berg

I. SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE

- A. Call to Order – Mary called the meeting to order at 7 PM.
- B. Opening prayer – Deacon Ron led the opening prayer, “Prayer After The Election.”
- C. Welcome, introductions. The group welcomed Charles Bernhard, Parish Diaconate Candidate.
- D. In-service – Deacon Ron reported on the Women With Initiative Program sponsored by United Way of Story County. The program was established in 2008 to educate women to become financially self-sufficient. Deacon Ron mentioned the Natural Family Planning segment on the Archdiocesan website.

II. BUSINESS MEETING

- A. October minutes were approved by consensus.
- B. Thank you notes:
 - Catholic Charities - for your partnership and generous support (Tracy Morrison)
 - Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa - \$250Request for donations:
 - Story County Dental Clinic (note, donations are already given on a regular basis)
 - Food for the World
- C. New business
 - None
- D. Unfinished business
 1. Mission Weekend – Oct. 22/23. There was a small crowd on Saturday night but well attended after the Sunday masses. Many questions were asked and answered.
 2. Christmas Market on Nov. 19 & 20. Ten groups participated in the Christmas Market in addition to the parent sponsored 5th grade pancake breakfast. The Social Justice's recycled Christmas decorations netted \$931.25 for Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Inc. A grand total of \$5,945.33 has been raised for GNEA over the past nine Christmas Markets.
 3. Respect Life and Social Justice: Formation for All: Deacon Ron showed the Archdiocesan website preview of the launch of its new Respect Life and Social Justice program. The program will be a three year, eight topic program. The program will run from Advent through October of each year. After discussion, the group decided to take the initiative to make the program available to the public. Deacon Ron will check with the parish office to determine meeting space and time.
 4. Klingeis estate-No new information to report.
 5. Outreach meals- Jessica Loecke will provide information when available.
 6. Home for Awhile – Mary reported that the demand for apartments is still very high. St. Cecilia provided one time assistance for an additional apartment last year. If funding is not found for that apartment starting in August, the apartment will be forfeited (the landlord wants confirmation by December).
 7. Days for Girls – Sewing is going well with a night meeting and an afternoon meeting each month.
 8. New Board Members - there has been some interest in obtaining an AMOS representative. A St. Cecilia representative is still needed to replace Mary at Home for Awhile.

9. Pastoral Council. Sarah Swanson reported the council recently completed a visioning update for Social Justice. Although a sister parish has not materialized, it was noted that SJ has adopted a refugee from the Ivory Coast. They are currently waiting to review estimates for different phases of the facility update.
10. Financial reports – Mary provided reports from Becca. Monetary Receipts: \$3,661.18. Estimated Value of Food Shelf was not available. Disbursements: \$4,803.80, Bank Balance as of October 31, 2016 \$77,150.69, Discretionary Funds Available: \$225.69, October FAF budget balance to be paid to FAF in November \$250.38. November's Special Allocations: \$250.00 – Heartland Senior Services. Cindy Baughman requested that the \$500 check allocated to the Giving Tree program be held until she determines the most need for gift certificates.
11. Parishioners' assistance program.– Sarah reported that she received the information regarding the Good Samaritan Service program utilized several years ago. She and Jarrett still have yet to meet with Father Secora with a written proposal.
12. Committee reports:
 - a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: **644.5** pounds in October. *November 19/20 – Keith & Linda Huls; Dec. 17/18 – Chuck Habing*
 - b. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen will check with Marlene Weishaar to find out when the meetings are held.
 - c. Food at First –Doreen reported the Thanksgiving meal will be held on November 24 at First Christian Church. The annual Pass-a-long Party will be the 2nd weekend in December. She will email details to Mary as soon as they are available.
 - d. Good Neighbor – Mary reported for Phyllis. \$8,281.97 was raised at the Combined Choir Concert held on November 6th. The 2017 Concert will be held at St. Cecilia Church. The 20th Anniversary celebration of GNEA will be held on April 29 at City Church. Worldly Goods has set November 20 from 1-4 as the day that GNEA will be the recipient of part of the day's proceeds.
 - e. Restorative Justice - Barb reported that she and Hanna interviewed a possible resident. She will need to go before the parole board for the ok, which could take a month to complete.
 - f. Individual Assistance – Ron said there continues to be many requests.
 - g. Emergency Residence Project – Mary reported for Julie. ERP continues to spend more than it takes in. Annual walk-throughs have recently been done. They are considering walk-throughs every three months in the future. The upstairs bathroom is being remodeled. Bedrooms will be painted and floors done one at a time. This will follow with new beds. Jim Mason and the Rotary Club will be removing an old concrete block garage on the property and hopefully, the area will then be used for a small basketball court for the youth from the 4-plex and neighbors.
 - h. AMOS-Need representative.
 - i. Gabriel Project – Bethany. No report.
 - j. Sanctity of Life – Garland. No report
 - k. Additional Issues-Since Lynn Franco was unavailable for the quarterly newsletter, it was done by Mary. Thank you Mary for doing a wonderful job.

Prayer/Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned with a Thanksgiving Day prayer.