

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

February 20, 2017, 7:00PM, Oscar Romero Room

SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE

- A. Call to Order – Mary called the meeting to order at 7:05. Attending: Mary Ross, Deacon Ron Smith, Phyllis Craig and Doreen Berg. Jarrett Wendt joined the group in session.
- B. Opening prayer for Migrant Workers (via Bob Hauser) – Deacon Ron
- C. Welcome, introductions - none
- D. In-service – No in service due to a full agenda

BUSINESS MEETING

A. December minutes were approved by consensus.

B. Thank you notes:

- Primary Health Care (1/24) – for \$100 and (for \$200 (12/20)
- Volunteer Center of Story County – thank you for being our Valentine. (To Days for Girls)
- Story County Dental Clinic - for your very generous gift
- Matthew 25 – thank you for 2016 gifts totaling \$2100
- Heartland Senior Services – for \$250
- MICA – for \$300 to Dental Clinic; \$150 to Family Development Center; contribution to Food Pantry (they now have a refrigerator)

Catholic Home Missions Annual Appeal & Report

C. New business

1. Coffee sales for Honduras. Mary reported the following information from Char VanKerckvoorde, business manager. The Pastoral Council suggested we try to find a way to support STA coffee sales here at St. Cecilia, since we have not yet adopted a sister parish. She spoke with Phil Barutha from STA for details. An article was posted in the church bulletin for assistance for the program but there has yet to be anyone stepping forward to head up this effort

2. Parish Pictorial Directory. Doreen attended the initial volunteer meeting and reported that Social Justice has been asked to facilitate picture appointments for one weekend. March 11/12, after all three masses, was chosen. Social Justice will also be asked to help staff picture days. Picture taking will begin on April 18 and run through May 5. Doreen will put together a 'needs' list and have Mary send it out to the Social Justice email group.

3. Mental Health Training. Doreen attended a mental health training by the Ames Police Department at First Christian Church on January 21, 2017. The meeting was facilitated by Julie Saxton, Mental Health Advocate. Julie informed the group that a regional Mobile Crisis Mobilization Center is in the works. The need is great as the police department received 1655 mental health calls were received for 2015 -2016; mostly welfare checks regarding mental health and disorderly conduct.

4. Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance. Mary reported that Father Jim supports St. Cecilia's work with other churches on common humanitarian issues. Nancy & Steve Heideman are looking into the Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance (AIRA) and will also contact Catholic Charities to see what resources they might have that we could utilize or work with in conjunction with AIRA.

5. Rice Bowl - Mary reported that Cynthia Shriver has made preparations necessary for the parish's annual Rice Bowl collection. Rice bowls will be available on Ash Wednesday, March 1st.

D. Unfinished business

1. Respect Life and Social Justice formation: Dec. 28; Feb. 8. dbqarch.org/rlsj/formation. <https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/respect-life/respect-life-and-social-justice-formation-for-all/>. The program began at St. Cecilia on Dec. 28. and was led by Deacon Ron. It was determined the next session will be March 27 and will be regarding end of life issues.

2. Individual Assistance. The committee has been contemplating implementing an individual assistance policy for Social Justice monies. Mary researched other parish policies for individual assistance and found a model. It was sent to the Executive Committee as well as Deacon Ron for review. Mary inserted information received to fit St. Cecilia. It was determined the goal should be for the policy to be in effect by the new fiscal year, July 1. The committee will continue to work on the policy at the next few meetings.

3. Klingseis estate – No news.

4. Need board member or representatives for AMOS.

5. Pastoral Council - Sarah was unable to attend the meeting and had nothing to report as the Council will be meeting the next night.

6. Financial reports – Becca sent the following reports for December: Receipts: Estimated value of food shelf donations: \$732.00; monetary receipts: \$9,735.73 (includes \$2,500 parishioner gift targeted for Individual Assistance). Disbursements for December: \$7,246.28. Bank Balance as of December 31, 2016: \$84,688.82. Discretionary funds available: \$7,518.77. December's special allocations: Giving Tree: \$500. Heartland Senior services, \$250; National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, \$150.00

Becca sent the following reports for January: Receipts: Estimated value of food shelf donations: \$640.00; monetary receipts: \$4,078.68. Disbursements for January: \$6,771.97. Bank Balance as of January 31, 2017: \$81,895.53. Discretionary funds available: \$4,698.87. January's special allocations: Birthright: \$275; Ames Ecumenical Housing Council: \$250; AMOS \$50.

ACCOUNTING NOTE: Scrip was inadvertently charged to the Social Justice account in both December and January. According to the office, December was going to be reversed but it hadn't been. January was reversed. As a result our disbursements have been inflated by more than \$5,000. We will need to watch so that these numbers are pulled out for the end of year report rather than using the end-of-year debit.

7. Parishioners' assistance – Sarah and Jarrett are working on.

8. Committee reports:

a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: **457.5 pounds** in December; **400 pounds** in January. *February 18/19– Keith & Linda Huls; March 18/19 – Chuck Habing; April 15/16 – Tom & Dorothy Sally*

b. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen attended meetings in January and February. Thank you to Marlene Weishaar for her past representation for St. Cecilia. Topics discussed were free tax preparation information, community gardens and ISU Extension materials and education. An updated Story County Hunger Guides was available as well as Familywise prescription savings cards. Mary Greeley Medical Center is now providing meals for Heartland Senior Citizens meal and outreach program. 7 out of 8 school districts have now implemented a Backpack Program with support from the Iowa Food Bank. Gilbert Schools has their own program. Food Pantries are in place for the middle and high schools.

c. Food at First. Doreen reported that 23,497 meals were provided to guests in 2016 through the free meal program. 16,986 shoppers representing 41,921 household members, participated in the free market distributions in 2016. There was a 2% increase in shoppers and a 1% decrease in household members from 2015 - 2016.

d. Good Neighbor – Phyllis. Good Neighbor will have its 20th anniversary celebration on April 29. This will include an awards ceremony as well as a silent and live auction. For the first 7 months of the current fiscal year, rent and or utility assistance was provided to 217 households; 5,600 healthy food vouchers were provided to 934 households; 173 gas vouchers were provided.

e. Restorative Justice - Barb. Written report. Ron mentioned that they have had a few more volunteers.

f. Individual Assistance – Ron said February requests have been down. One family we have been helping has finally been granted disability and is now on track. The refugee we have helped to support is employed and has been supporting himself since December.

g. Emergency Residence Project – Julie Haas sent a written report. She had previously requested (in between regularly scheduled Social Justice meetings) that the \$1,000 monthly disbursement be earmarked for shelter maintenance for the next couple months as there are some pending needs. Executive Committee approved Julie's request. The upstairs shower will be replaced, electrical work and repainting. There are outdoor repairs as well. The playground project is making progress.

h. AMOS - no report and a representative is needed.

i. Gabriel Project – Bethany. No report.

j. Sanctity of Life – Garland submitted a written report. The committee discussed feedback on the Memorial to those lost to abortion. Information on the narthex kiosk for July/August will be stem cell therapy - the good (adult stem cells), the bad (embryo stem cells) and vaccines from sources - legitimate and illegitimate. SOL will facilitate the Stations of the Cross on April 7 at 6:00 p.m. The committee is exploring fundraisers to generate funds for Informed Choices. Upcoming Events: Free Introduction to the Creighton Model Session - February 13, 2017 and March 20, 2017.

k. Home for Awhile – Mary reported demand exceeds supply for temporary housing continues. The committee will not meet this month as there weren't any available apartments to offer.

l. Days for Girls – Mary. The group participated in a CyServe drop in and serve event on February 1 at the Memorial Union. There will possibly be another session on April 22 at St. Cecilia's.

m. Stations of the Cross - Social Justice will facilitate the Stations of the Cross on March 31 at 6:00 p.m.

n. Iowa Catholic Conference - Ron reminded the committee to visit the Iowa Catholic Conference Legislative Network's website <http://iowacatholicconference.org/> and sign up for automatic emails of the ICC newsletter.

D. Prayer/Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Doreen Berg