

# Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

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

Present: Mary Ross, Doreen Berg, Barb Moore, Julie Haas, Jarrett Wendt, Sarah Swanson, Bridget Mersmann, Phyllis Craig, Deacon Ron Smith  
Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

## SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE

- A. Call to Order – Mary called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
- B. Opening prayer – Ron led the opening prayer followed by an excellent discussion on what it means to care for the poor.
- C. Welcome & introductions. Bridget was introduced. Welcome, Bridget.

## BUSINESS MEETING

- A. October minutes. The minutes were approved as amended. Change D.9b, l 1 and 2 to read: Doreen provided information from the October 5 meeting.
- B. Correspondence:  
Invitation to fundraiser: Oct. 27 - *Over the Edge* Boys and Girls Club  
Request for donation: MICA for Dental Clinic  
Thank you notes:
  - MICA- for \$225 (10/3) and \$175 (10/31) donations to Story County Dental Clinic
  - MICA – for \$250 (10/4) to the Food Pantry
  - ERP – for continued support
  - Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa for \$250.00
- C. New business
  1. St. Vincent de Paul clothing drive. It was decided that Lent would be a good time to have a clothing drive for them.
- D. Old business
  1. Christmas Market. Doreen. \$1,303.74 was raised for GN from the recycled Christmas decorations. The mitten sale raised \$460.00 for the Story County Dental Clinic.
  2. Story County Housing Trust. Julie has been approached by Dale VanderSchaaf of Story County Community Housing Corporation to ask if SJ would consider adding the \$50,000.00 from the Klingseis estate to a \$40,000.00 donation that SCCHC has received in order to begin a low cost housing project for the community. It was decided that we need more information and assurance that the project will succeed.
  3. Respect Life and Social Justice Formation. [dbqarch.org/rlsj/formation](http://dbqarch.org/rlsj/formation).  
<https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/respect-life/respect-life-and-social-justice-formation-for-all/>.  
There will be a program on December 11 at 7 PM in the St. Louis Room.
  4. Klingseis estate. Story County Housing. Julie. See D2.
  5. AMOS. Assembly on Oct. 23. DACA dinner. Meeting on Nov. 9 on Mental Health. The meeting was attended by Mary and Doreen. Doreen provided notes on the progress that has been made for mental health assistance in the area. Primary Health Care now provides addiction treatment for opioids, MGMC has opened four adult mental health beds and hopes to have another two by the end of the year, and in February, the Crisis Intervention Team will (or has already) receive a grant for training. Please see notes for more information.
  6. Pastoral Council. Sarah reported that the SJ committee needs to update our initiatives. The current initiatives were modified. The modifications reflect the need to incorporate infographs in our education endeavors, to have an on-going process to assess the local partners that we financially support, and establish a system where the financial needs of parishioners are known and support offered.
  7. Financial reports & budget. Doreen/Jean. Doreen presented the financial report for October. Monetary Receipts: \$4,567.00(includes \$1,000.00 adjustment), Estimated value of Food Shelf Contributions: \$1,088.00, Disbursements: \$4,382.29, Bank Balance as of October 31, 2017: \$72,379.44, Discretionary Funds Available: \$3,839.88,

8. Parishioners' assistance. Sarah and Jarrett. The discussion centered around the best ways that information about existing parish assistance programs can be disseminated. Suggestions included bathroom signs, the bulletin (weekly repetition?), bulletin inserts, incorporation into homilies, written parishioners resource guide, and signs on the Good Samaritan grocery cart where the cart is in a prominent location to act as a visual reminder. Perhaps the best approach is to use all of the above to inform parishioners as often as possible that if they know of someone who needs help to contact the office.
9. Harvest of Blessings matching grant. By consensus, it was agreed that SJ will provide \$500.00 as a match for the Harvest of Blessings grant that Julie is applying for on behalf of ERP.
10. Committee reports:
  - a. Good Samaritan Fund/Food Pantry donation: **680 pounds in October.** *(Tom Sally reported that he took 680# to the food pantry today and got a hug from the staff because the food was badly needed.)*
  - b. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen provided information on the November 16 meeting. It was suggested that Diana Weber might be willing to forward meeting notes to Mary. FAF is not part of the coalition.
  - c. Food at First –Doreen reported that the pass along party will be held December 9 from 4PM to 5:30PM. Volunteers are needed from 1:30PM to 4:30PM. Donations can be left at the First Christian Church behind the accordion doors in the lower level.
  - d. Good Neighbor – Phyllis reported that \$11,151.30 was raised at the combined choir concert. A gift certificate (\$50) will be given to Bob Hauser for all of his efforts. Thank you to all who helped.
  - e. Restorative Justice. Barb. Saturdays are going well. Two more individuals are being interviewed for the Butterfly House.
  - f. Individual Assistance. Ron. Requests for assistance in October were light but November requests have been high.
  - g. Emergency Residence Project. Julie. The Open House went well. Linda Munden is the new Transitional Housing Support Specialist/Volunteer Manager. Carrie would like 3-4 more hotel rooms at the Ames Motor Lodge at least until March. A \$2,450.00 grant was received from the Dennis Byrne Foundation for the Prevention of Homelessness. Several fundraising events are in progress. Improvements continue to be made to the shelter building. The shelter is full and supplies (food and items such as blankets) are low.
  - h. Sanctity of Life. Garland provided minutes of the November 11 meeting to Mary which she shared with committee members.
  - i. Home for Awhile. Mary reported that Sarah Day, the go-to person for the program, will go to half time and this may have an impact on the program. The Board meets the 4th Tuesday of the month and anyone interested in serving should contact Mary.
  - j. Days for Girls. Mary reminded us that Joanne's will have very good prices on fabric on Black Friday.
11. Additional concerns. International projects now comprise 7% of our giving. Should we revisit the topic? Doreen will visit with Anna Steele to inquire about any plans to use the money dedicated to Youth Missions in our budget.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM with a prayer.