

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

December 16, 2019, 7:00PM, St. Louis Room

Present: Deacon Ron Smith, Doreen Berg, John Wilson, Nancy Heideman, Jean Boot, Barb Moore, Charlie Weber, Kathy Wipf, Mary Ross and Mike Brown

Recorded by: Mary Ross

- A. Call to Order – Doreen
- B. Opening prayer – Ron
- C. Welcome & Introductions

BUSINESS MEETING

A. MINUTES

November Draft Minutes – Jackie. The minutes were approved by consensus.

- B. CORRESPONDENCE**-Thank you – Boys and Girls Club (general) Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance Inc. (\$1501 Christmas Market), Birthright (\$270), Habitat for Humanity (\$250), Martha's House of Hope (monthly donation, Christmas decorations, Christmas Market booth) Primary Health Care (\$200) Yearly Appeals – Center for Creative Justice (funding), Wings of Refuge (prayers and funding); Home For Awhile Request – household items.

- C. FINANCIALS** – Jean. The tentative November financial report was reviewed. Food and financial donations were up in November. November began with a balance of \$62,698.899 and had expenditures of \$4374.91, with an ending balance of \$64,446.98 (includes remainder of Klingseis Estate).

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Pastoral Council – Doreen met with Pastoral Council which was impressed with the work Social Justice does. Doreen mentioned the limited lector announcements, but no change is expected. Pastoral Council does not meet in December.
2. Parish Wide Service Project – Parish Life Committee. The collection date for *Let's Roll*, the parish-wide service project, will be January 25/26. Rick Brimeyer is doing the marketing for this event. Doreen will ask for volunteers to help sort the paper goods. Parishioners will be the first to receive donations on Jan. 26. The agencies will pick up on Monday.
3. Social Justice needs a volunteer to serve on the planning committee for Father Jim's retirement. Contact Doreen if you would be willing to do this.
4. Parish committees are to assemble information on their committees to present to the new pastor when he arrives. Due date for this information was uncertain

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Respect Life and Social Justice Formation – Ron said there are no new events scheduled on the Archdiocesan website. Parishioners did not attend the World Day of the Poor event.
2. Advocacy/Publicity – No report.
3. Committee reports:
 - a. Good Samaritan –
 - November good pantry donations: 560 pounds - Tom and Dorothy Sally
 - November envelopes, cart, food transfer – Tom & Dorothy Sally
 - December envelopes, cart, food transfer – Pat & Barb Tallman
 - b. Climate Action Team (CAT) - No new information.

c. AMOS –

- Kathy reported there will be an Epiphany Immigration Fiesta/Dinner on Sunday, January 5 at Collegiate Methodist Wesley Foundation – Wesley Hall, 2622 Lincoln Way (enter east door). A potluck dinner will be at 6pm; place settings and drink will be furnished, but please bring a dish or two to share. The 7pm program will feature stories of immigrants' journeys from far-away to Ames. Kathy also said that a group at Collegiate Methodist meets every two weeks.
- Mental health and housing another issue being addressed. Estimates are that between 40-80 individuals or households in Story County have a combined history of homelessness and issues with mental health or substance abuse.
- Fewer ID's were given out at the recent event.
- Courtney Dufford is the new Lead Organizer.

d. Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners (ASIP). Nancy reported that St. Cecilia and St. Thomas formed the Immigration and Refugee Committee. Reports to the Social Justice Committee will be given from this committee.

e. Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance – Nancy is working on a Resource Guide. She received many donations for a refugee family, but needs earlier notice in the future.

f. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen. Written report available. The Farmer's Market will have an EBT machine available and will be part of the SNAP program.

g. Food at First – November average meals per day – 79.7. The number of meals served this year through November 30, 2019 – 23,406.

h. Good Neighbor – Written report available. Charlie reported that the new software is giving excellent statistical information. The Good Neighbor concert raised \$11,192. The decrease in SNAP funding is expected to increase the need. A volunteer will submit more opinion pieces to the newspaper.

i. Restorative Justice – Barb reported that Jacob Shepherd will give a presentation on restorative justice on Jan. 23 from 6:30-8:30 in the Oscar Romero Room. Board members from the Matthew 25 House and Butterfly Freedom House are being invited to attend.

*Butterfly House – Barb. There are currently four residents.

*Matthew 25 House – Ron. No new information.

j. Emergency Residence Project – Ben. Written report: ERP is working on a capital campaign. ERP reports that providing services to those who are disabled has increased to 50% of those served, with the majority having mental health issues. A video surveillance system has been installed. Also, Doreen met with a marketing firm hired by ERP to gather information about the perception and the future of ERP.

k. Sanctity of Life – Garland. Written Report.

l. Home for Awhile – Mary reported on a letter from Sarah Day (board member from Cornerstone). Sarah thanked everyone for participating in this ministry and asked for prayers. She also mentioned household items Home for Awhile can use: hand mixers, coffee makers, toasters, pizza pans, drinking glasses, measuring cups and spoons, can openers and tall kitchen cans.

m. Days for Girls – Mary. The fundraiser at Christmas Market was very successful. The Ames Sewing Team will receive a donation from proceeds from the Altrusa Holiday Tour of Homes; team members volunteered at the event. After March 1, the hygiene kits will include sewn transport bags, rather than Ziploc bags, since some countries are now out-lawing plastic bags.

n. Additional Concerns. The committee decided to donate \$100 worth of paper products to "Let's Roll." Doreen will purchase the items for the committee.

F. Closing Prayer – The meeting was closed with a prayer.