

# Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

May 17, 2021, 7:00PM, in person and via ZOOM

In attendance: Doreen Berg, John Wilson, Deacon Ron Smith, Jean Boot, Jarrett Wendt, Lynn Franco, Ben Kellen, Cynthia Shriver

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

1. Doreen called the meeting to order.
2. Ron led the opening prayer, *Prayer for the Mentally Ill*.
3. Kristin Mientkiewicz was introduced.

## BUSINESS MEETING

### A. MINUTES

- a. April Draft Minutes – Cynthia Shriver. Minutes accepted by consensus.

B. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Thank you: Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Inc., The Bridge Home, Ames Ecumenical Housing, Inc., Catholic Charities; Newsletter: Food at First

### C. NEW BUSINESS

a. Pastoral Council – Deacon Ron/Jarrett. Starting in June there will be a 6:30 PM Wednesday Mass followed by an additional activity aimed at community building. More space in the church will be opened for in-person attendance at Mass but the Social Hall will still be available as well as live streaming.

b. Catholic Relief Services Chapter – Kristin Mientkiewicz presented information on the CRS initiative to start nationwide chapters to advance its mission. Through advocacy such as letter writing and developing relationships with their members of Congress, the chapters would raise the profile of issues such as immigration and malnutrition. To start one, Kristen said we would need to have 4-5 individuals who would be trained in a four part orientation. After that, chapters would come together for a national conference call once a month. Presently there are ~90 chapters across the country. SJ would support such a program. Suggestions were offered to find individuals who would be willing to commit to this program. Kristin will contact Father Don to get his blessing on the endeavor.

### D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Respect Life and Social Justice Formation – Ron. No new information.

2. Advocacy/Publicity – Lynn Franco. Written report available.

\*May newsletter. The May newsletter will be delayed until more is known about the changes that might occur to the black bag collection and the distribution of donations. Doreen will contact Lynn with details of the changes after they are finalized.

\*Bulletin Boards. The bulletin boards continue to be updated.

#### 3. Committee Reports

a. Good Samaritan - Lynn

\*April food pantry donation – 369 pounds – Gordie Miller. Donations were down from previous months.

\*May cart/sign/food delivery – Tina Richards

\*June cart/sign/food delivery – Keith and Linda Huls

b. AMOS – Sara Rooney – Ames Move Forward Campaign. No new information.

c. Immigrants and Refugee Committee – Nancy Heideman. Written reports available. The need for the fund continues. The fund has received several grants.

ASIP – STA will join ASIP and AIRA as second sponsors for a women seeking asylum with her son in the U.S.

AIRA – They are continuing to try to have Ames designated as a resettlement site for refugees.

AMOS County Coordination Committee – There will be an ID drive in the Fall, probably at STC. The ID's have been used for things not initially thought of such as applying for Covid-19 Emergency Funds for Story County Immigrants, for routine medical appointments at Primary Health Care and McFarland Clinic, for getting Covid-19 vaccinations and for picking up their children from school.

d. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen/Patty Huisenga. There was a very successful United Way food drive.

e. Food at First –Julie (April 2790 meals/93 meals per day average)

f. Good Neighbor – Charlie Weber. Written assistance report and minutes are available. GN is doing well financially.

g. The Bridge Home f/k/a Emergency Residence Project – Ben Kellen. Men are still not being housed at the shelter.

The fund raising campaign is moving along. High end donors are being met with privately. It is not yet known when the campaign will become public.

Available city energy rebates for the new shelter will be pursued at the appropriate time.

h. Sanctity of Life – Garland Dahlke. Minutes are available. A baby was born at MHOH last week and MHOH is restructuring their donation list to allow donors to know what is needed. They have an agreement with Overflow Thrift Shop for items for the mothers.

i. Climate Action Team (CAT) – John Wilson. Written report available.

\* Celebration of Life – Fall 2021. Written report available. John has identified four individuals from STC that are willing to work on the event. Individuals from St. Thomas have also been recruited. St. Peter and Paul will be asked to participate. Archbishop Jackels may be invited to attend.

j. Jail Ministry – No new information.

\*Butterfly House – Barb Moore

\*Matthew 25 House – Deacon Ron

k. Home for Awhile – Mary Ross. Written report available. No new information.

l. Days for Girls – Mary Ross. Written report available. The team continues to work at meetings and at home.

m. Saving Suds Laundry Project – Mary Ross. No new information.

n. Make Their Hearts Smile (Elderly/Disabled Outreach) – Julie Haas (will launch in the Fall). Julie did not hear back from Accura Health Care regarding any specific needs individuals might presently have.

E. **FINANCIALS** – Jean

a. March Financial Report (Final). Reviewed.

b. April Financial Report (Tentative) Reviewed. Donations were less than budgeted this month but we should end the fiscal year very close to budget.

c. Primary Health Care/Catholic Charities/Story County Dental – Changes to the funding of the groups was explained.

d. Request Support: One Heart Catholic Mission/Dawn Aitchison - June Mission Trip. **By consensus, it was agreed that \$1,500 will be donated to the Mission for electrical work and fans or any other appropriate purpose.** The money will come from the Thanksgiving collection. The remainder of the collection will be earmarked at a later time. If you have ideas about how to spend the remainder of the collection, please contact Jean.

e. A 2021-2022 budget will not be made until more is known about the changes occurring in the Black Bag collection.

F. **Additional Concerns.** 1. Ron asks that the committee pursue ways on how to promote Catholic Social Teachings in the parish. 2. Jean indicated that we need to do more in educating parishioners on how the Black Bag donations are used and what the agencies we support do. 3. There was much discussion regarding the proposed changes in the Black Bag collection. Doreen suggested that we incorporate the Corporal Works of Mercy with the monthly displays. Jarrett indicated that we will need something eye catching to attract parishioners. The featured organizations could be asked to supply the displays and offer ideas and students at the school, in faith formation classes, etc. could be asked to participate. Doreen will set up a meeting in early June with Father Don and a small group of committee members. 4. John suggested thinking about working on some kind of recognition for individual(s) in the parish that have stood out for their leadership and advocacy of specific causes.

H. **Closing Prayer** – The meeting was adjourned with a prayer.