

Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

October 19, 2020, 7:00PM, via ZOOM

In Attendance: Deacon Ron Smith, Father Don, Julie Haas, Nancy Heideman, Jarrett Wendt, Mary Ross, Jean Boot, Ben Kellen, John Wilson, Kathy Wipf, Doreen Berg, Cynthia Shriver

Recorded by: Cynthia Shriver

1. Call to Order – Doreen Berg
2. Opening prayer – Deacon Ron. Video of Blessed Carlos Acutis
3. Welcome & Introductions-None

BUSINESS MEETING

A. MINUTES

Cynthia Shriver. **The September minutes were approved by consensus.**

B. CORRESPONDENCE: – Reports available

C. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Social Justice Meetings 3rd Monday of month. After much discussion, it was decided that the meeting time for SJ would remain the same.
- b. Pastoral Council – Mike Brown. Father Don reported that the Parish Council seemed generally supportive of collecting funds for individual agencies/causes instead of a general Black Bag collection. Also, the Council is considering putting money in the budget specifically for social justice. The proposal would need to go to the Finance Committee. If approved, the line item would be in the July 2021-22. There are many unanswered questions. Discussion revolved around two scenarios. We can continue to use the Black Bag or we can collect for individual agencies or combine agencies with similar services. The question is if the change to the new procedure would increase overall contributions. The agencies that we currently send money to on a monthly basis have come to rely on that money. It is easier for them to prepare their own budgets if they know what they will receive consistently each month. No decisions were made.
- c. Parish Giving Tree – Cindy Baughman. Cindy is thinking about other options of gift giving because of Covid. She is considering asking for gift cards only.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Laudato Si and the Season of Creation Outdoor Joint Prayer Service – John Wilson. The service went well. Father Don is agreeable to having another one next year.
2. Respect Life and Social Justice formation – Ron. No new information.
3. Advocacy/Publicity – Lynn Franco
 - *Bulletin Boards
 - *Newsletter - For the November newsletter Lynn has the following topics identified: Giving Tree, Alternative Gift Market, and Immigrant Fund. Other ideas are welcomed and should be sent to Lynn.
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Good Samaritan – Lynn. *September food pantry donation – 361.5 pounds - Lynn and Terry Franco
*October cart/sign/food delivery – Barb and Pat Tallman
 - b. AMOS – Kathy Wipf. Written report available. Kathy conducted three Zoom sessions with a total of five participants. There will be a Zoom meeting on Sunday, October 4, at 3 PM. AMOS will be meeting with Iowa candidates for November's election. Since Covid has prevented AMOS from sponsoring its usual fundraising activity, donations are gratefully being accepted. Please see the written report for instructions on how to donate.
 - c. Immigrants and Refuge Committee – Nancy Heideman. Written report available.
 - d. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen. Written report available.

- e. Food at First –Julie (September average meals – 86) Numbers are up. It appears that ~110 meals are being distributed each day. A shed has been built to use for distributing food during the winter months. Despite Covid, a Thanksgiving dinner will be offered this year.
- f. Good Neighbor – Charlie Weber. Written reports available. Doreen will start to include Lori’s monthly assistance reports with the documents committee members receive for the meetings. Annual Fundraiser for Good Neighbor. We need a replacement for the recycling of decorations fundraiser held at the Christmas Market since the market has been cancelled.
- g. The Bridge Home – Ben Kellen. Some offices might be moved to the upstairs of the building that houses Good Neighbor. Answers to last month’s questions about Good Neighbor are included in the documents sent to committee members.
- h. Sanctity of Life – Garland Dahlke. No new information.
- i. Climate Action Team (CAT) – John Wilson. John requested that we write to Ames City Council members in support of the city’s climate crisis plan. John asked about the status of STC fulfilling its commitment to the Sun Smart Solar Project. Father Don said that a collection had been taken previously and not much money was collected. Father Don said that he and the Parish Council are aware of the short fall. STC could possibly take the funds out of savings.
- j. Jail Ministry
 - *Butterfly House – Barb Moore. There are currently two residents and one just graduated.
 - *Matthew 25 House – Deacon Ron. Board minutes are available
- k. Home for Awhile – Mary Ross. Written report available. Home for Awhile continues to meet and interview clients via Zoom. Next session: Oct. 27. Home for Awhile received a donation of \$3,138 from the Community Giving Circle. Steve Padgitt, former team member, nominated Home for Awhile for this award.
- l. Days for Girls – Mary Ross. Written report available. Days for Girls took 120 kits to Blessman Ministries (in Urbandale) on October 1. A small group attended the in-person night meeting on Oct. 8 and another meeting will be held on Oct. 22. There is a limit of nine people due to Covid-19 precautions. Members continue to pick up items at Mary’s house and work at home. Days for Girls received a \$500 grant from the Nevada Lutheran Church.

E. FINANCIALS

The August Financial Report (Final) and the September Financial Report (Tentative) were reviewed.

F. ADDITIONAL CONCERNS None.

G. CLOSING PRAYER - Deacon Ron. The meeting was closed with a prayer for the election.