

# Saint Cecilia Social Justice Minutes

September 21, 2020, 7:00PM, via ZOOM

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

1. Call to Order – Doreen Berg
2. Opening prayer – Deacon Ron. Prayer for Peace.
3. Welcome & Introductions. None

## BUSINESS MEETING

### A. MINUTES

- a. August Minutes – Cynthia Shriver. Minutes approved by consensus.

### B. CORRESPONDENCE: – Available upon request.

### C. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Pastoral Council – Father Don said he did introduce the concept of becoming a tithing parish. He suggested highlighting the different agencies/causes that the SJ black bag collection supports to hopefully increase donations. He stated that things are proceeding on a variety of repairs that are needed at the parish.
- b. Laudato Si and the Season of Creation Outdoor Joint Prayer Service with St. Thomas October 4, 1:00 p.m. St. Cecilia -John Wilson/Chuck Glatz (STA). Preparations for the prayer service are going well. They will need several tents that STC will supply. If it rains people can stay in their cars and the speaker system can be used. It was noted that the prayer service conflicts with Life Chain.

### D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Respect Life and Social Justice Formation – Ron. No new information
2. Advocacy/Publicity – Lynn recently updated the bulletin board with information about the prayer service. If you have information for the October newsletter please contact Lynn.
3. Committee Reports
  - a. Good Samaritan – Lynn. The September food donation was 361.5 pounds.
    - \*August food pantry donation – 173.5 – Tina Richard
    - \*September cart/food delivery – Lynn and Terry Franco
  - b. AMOS – Kathy. Written report available. Father Don will be meeting with Courtney Dufford, the lead organizer for AMOS is our area. The AMOS accountability session with Iowa candidates will be held Sunday, October 4, 3 pm via Zoom.
  - c. Immigrants and Refugee Committee – Nancy Heideman. Written reports available. The group is starting to run out of money. They are focusing on efforts to insure that recipients are not getting duplicate services. The Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance has submitted a grant to fund the ELL class and to expand it after Covid -19 is under control. The Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners are working on education and advocacy. The DACA scholarships to pay for DACA renewals is now in place.
  - d. Hunger Collaboration – Doreen. Written report available. The program for food for school age children is being continued.
  - e. Food at First –Julie reported that more chefs/cooks are needed. A request will be put in the church bulletin. Food at First is planning on having the Pass-Along-Party. Items will be packaged for pick-up like what is done for the meals. (August average meals – 83/day)
  - f. Good Neighbor – Charlie Weber. August minutes and assistance reports are available. The Parish Christmas Market 2020 has been cancelled due to covid-19 and all ideas for a replacement fundraiser are welcomed.
  - g. The Bridge Home (formerly ERP) – Ben reported that they are in a good financial state. One staff member has been added. An agency had been hired to do a feasibility study on raising money for a new shelter. They will determine things such as how much money can be realistically raised. After their report, The Bridge Home will take over fundraising efforts.

- h. Sanctity of Life – Garland Dahlke. September minutes are available. Obria, which had been closed due to the virus has reopened.
- i. Climate Action Team (CAT) – John. The Ames City Council has agreed to have a climate action plan. There is funding available. John suggested we write letters to council members in support of the plan.
- j. Jail Ministry
  - \*Butterfly House – Barb Moore. There are currently two residents. Because of Covid, no interviews are being held.
  - \*Matthew 25 House – Deacon Ron. No new information.
- k. Home for Awhile – Mary. New residents are being interviewed by Zoom.
- l. Days for Girls – Mary. Participants are continuing to work from home.

**E. FINANCIALS (Jean)**

- a. July Financial Report (Final)-reviewed
- b. August Financial Report (Tentative)-reviewed
- c. 2020 – 2021 Budget FINAL-reviewed. Details are in the budget report.

**4. Additional Concerns.**

- 1. John brought up nursing home residents and the loneliness experienced because of Covid-19. Is there something we can do such as write letters, send cards or make telephone calls? Doreen said she is not sure what would be allowed by the nursing homes. Julie mentioned that St. Anne's circle sends Christmas cards to the homebound in the parish.
- 2. Our October meeting will be a Zoom meeting. Some other parish committees are holding in person meetings.

**5. Closing Prayer - Deacon Ron. The meeting was closed with a prayer.**