

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CLUSTER
SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 11, 2018 – 7:15 PM
FAYETTE, IOWA

Attendees: Andy Johnson (SP); Lois McElvania (HN); Elaine Reicks (SFA); Ann Egan (IC); Maureen Johnson (SP – Cluster Business Manager); Deacon Michal Schemmel (IC – Cluster Deacon)

Lois opened the meeting with prayer.

Meeting was led by Lois McElvania as Chair.

II. Review & Approval of Agenda: Item added – review of Giving Tree project. Motion by Andy to approve with addition, Elaine seconded – motion carried.

III. Review & Approval of Minutes of August Meeting: Motion by Elaine, Andy seconded – motion carried.

IV. Old Business:

Review of Giving Tree Project

SFA had 72 gift tags that were filled. Gifts have been distributed to Fayette school and Prairie View Residential Center. SP Rosary Society just completed gathering the gifts, response was good. IC reported the project went as usual. HN had requests for more name tags next year.

10 Step Process: Mission Statement

The proposed Mission Statement was reviewed and discussed. While it expresses good thoughts, it was felt too be too long. So, with some editing, the following statement was agreed upon:

Believing that Social Justice is the work of every baptized person, the St. Joseph the Worker Cluster believes we are called to continue the mission of Christ by serving the marginalized and those in need, promoting peace, justice and charity to all God's children, and fostering greater awareness of our role as stewards of the earth. The Social Justice Committee is committed to doing this by serving as the primary resource and catalyst for the work of social justice throughout the Cluster through providing opportunities for service, education and motivation, and coordinating Parish service programs.

Andy motioned to approve the Mission Statement, Ann seconded – motion carried.

Vision Statement

The proposed Vision Statement was reviewed and discussed and approved as follows:

The work of the Social Justice Commission of the St. Joseph the Worker Cluster, following the biblical and theological foundations of Catholic social teaching, hopes to create a Cluster which is alive and active in the causes of social justice in order to lift up the poor and needy among us in fulfilling Christ's command to love one another. Through promotion and coordination of social justice efforts of the Cluster, we aspire to become a more loving community of committed Catholic Christians.

Elaine moved to approve the vision statement, Andy seconded – motion carried.

Food Shelf Weekend – January 19 & 20, 2019

This special collection effort still in the plans. Will need a bulletin announcement in the Jan 12/13th bulletin – deadline is January 8th. An announcement or explanation to be given from the altar either by Fr. Don or a Social Justice person, or the lector. Will need a different looking basket to put at the base of the altar for those wishing to give a monetary contribution. The hope is to get people to bring a food donation and physically bring their donation to the altar at the Offertory of the Mass. After the regular collection is gathered, when the gift bearers are bringing forward the offerings of bread, wine and treasure, people will follow them to the altar and place their gift of food there. Need ushers to help direct people and place offerings. Maybe kids can help gather food donations from among the congregation who are not able to bring their gift forward. Then will need people to gather and transport the food to the local food pantry after Mass.

Funding Discussion

When the Cluster decided to have one Mass for Holy Days and other special days i.e. Thanksgiving, one unexpected consequence was how to allocate any money collected at these Masses. Maureen reported that the

Cluster Pastoral Council, after much discussion, has decided to request that each Parish include an envelope in their envelope mailings for Holy Days. If a member uses their envelope for their contribution, that money will be routed to the appropriate Parish. Any loose funds collected at a Holy Day Mass will be distributed as follows: the first \$100 to the Parish hosting the Mass and the remaining funds to the Cluster to be held for Social Justice outreach.

Continuation of Catholic Social Teachings in Bulletins

Print outs of what the upcoming bulletin inserts will look like were reviewed.

Kleenex Challenge – February

Discussed if doing this in February would be too much. Should we skip February and consider doing this in March? Is there even a need? Elaine and Ann will call the local schools to try to determine if there is a need for this outreach at this time of year. They will communicate with the other committee members probably by e-mail and we will evaluate the potential need and then decide if we will sponsor this project.

V. New Business:

Jail & Prison Ministry Mentoring Program

The Archdiocese will be sponsoring an informational meeting on January 10th at Holy Name with the goal of garnering volunteers willing to be trained to help offer this ministry and circle of support for the residents of the West Union Correctional Facility.

Revolving Calendar

Andy passed out a calendar print-out requesting that each parish representative keep track of anything happening in their Parish on this calendar. Then we can combine the calendars and have a picture of things that are being done in the Cluster for Social Justice efforts.

Ideas for Outreach for next meeting

Rides for elderly to Weekend Mass
Visiting the Shut-ins and people in Nursing Homes
Medical Devices Collection

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, March 14th at 7:00 p.m. at SFA.

VI. Adjournment and Closing Prayer:

Deacon Mike lead a closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Maureen Johnson

Acting Secretary/Cluster Business Manager