

## Minutes of the Social Justice & Ministry Committee

November 12, 2018, 7 p.m.

Members present: Carol J., co-chair; Eileen H., Susan M., Sharon S., Mary Q., Mike Q., and Peggy R.

- A. Opening prayer was read by all.
- B. Adjustments to agenda: There were none.
- C. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the October 8, 2018 meeting were approved as distributed, although it was suggested that E.3.b. and E.3.c. would be improved with appropriate citation.
- D. Announcements and reports
  1. Treasurer's report: Eileen  
Michaela will be submitting a bill for printing the voting guides
  2. Social Justice programming: Peggy will continue to send announcements, but with Thanksgiving coming up, there is less happening on the campuses at the moment.
- E. Old business
  1. *Lazarus at the Table*, discussion of Chapter 2
    - a. Roe v. Wade was discussed, and its application, allowing abortion in the first trimester; later abortions, particularly partial-birth abortion, are horrendous, but the personal circumstances of affected women are not known. There are also those who seem to be staunchly pro-life/anti-abortion, but less supportive of the needs of those who are born. ("Pro-birth, not necessarily pro-life.")
    - b. Human dignity can be impaired both by a lack of resources and a surfeit.
    - c. The dignity of the human person underlies all of the other social justice teachings.
    - d. We are not to give from our excess, but from our substance.
  2. Creation Care planning
    - a. Brainstorming subjects to be addressed
      - 1) Eileen said our program should not focus on the negative; instead it should emphasize the positive. Although the problems might trace back to human intervention, not everyone agrees, so "gloom and doom" may not be effective.
      - 2) Carol asked what kind of a program we envision.
        - a. Information pieces in the bulletin?
        - b. Collecting plastic garbage?
        - c. An ongoing program, or of limited duration?
        - d. Part (or all) of the Soup & Speaker series?
        - e. Bulletin inserts?

- f. Lessons on stewardship & the environment; use historical perspectives
  - g. Mine the various encyclicals (especially *Laudato Si'*) and historical efforts for text and context
  - h. Include practical steps people could do, e.g. reducing plastic bag use
  - i. An Earth Day cleanup effort
  - j. Ask Faith Formation students to make Creation Care posters
  - k. Sponsor balanced debates about controversial topics, e.g., Polymet Mining
  - l. Practical suggestions for families, e.g., getting LED bulbs
  - m. Angie's suggestions:
    - 1) Planting trees
    - 2) Planting gardens
    - 3) Beekeeping
    - 4) Composting
    - 5) Investment/divestment
    - 6) How to reduce, reuse, recycle
    - 7) Organic, buying local
    - 8) Feeding birds
    - 9) Plantings for pollinators
  - n. Spaying/neutering your pets
  - o. LED bulbs, and safe recycling of old bulbs, computers, etc.
  - p. Have a section on the parish website with information on proper disposal of hazardous waste, or a section of the parish bulletin
  - q. A Facebook page? Send Friend requests to all parishioners?
  - r. Support for/recognition of the Creation Care aspects of the parish rummage sale
- b. Action steps, ideas, and offers
- 1) Eileen offered to find out how to obtain free trees from the DNR
  - 2) Susie offered to talk to the Faith Formation staff about projects for the FF students
  - 3) Peggy will talk to Julie about the feasibility or any possible roadblocks to setting up a Social Justice Creation Care Facebook page.
  - 4) Carol will ask the Parish Council for feedback about our undertaking this program.
  - 5) Mike speculated that we should have a program with a defined length, e.g., to culminate on Arbor Day with tree planting, or on Earth Day.
  - 6) Eileen noted that the rain garden planned for the edge of the new parking lot in spring might be something to support or help with; Tim is designing that, and she will ask him.
  - 7) Mary offered to investigate hazardous waste pickup.
  - 8) Carol noted the time and suggested we use our December meeting to discuss this planning further.

## F. New business

- 1. Outreach to shut-ins: plans for this holiday season
  - a. There are still six Coborn's gift cards remaining from last year.

- b. Eileen is trying to recruit a new member, someone who would like to see us do more ministry within the parish. In her previous parish, they would find out what people need. How can we find out the needs of parishioners? Who might need meal delivery?
    - 1) Some people, like Bob and Evie D., visit people a lot; or people in the St. Rose Mission Circle may have inside information about needs; invite them to our next meeting?
    - 2) If we heard of a need and found a way to address it, does Julie do the interacting?
    - 3) How can we know and be kept informed of such needs?
    - 4) How can we let people know of the possibilities?
      - a. Eileen suggested that something could be in the bulletin naming the people willing to volunteer on, say, a particular day of the week, to drive people to appointments.
      - b. We can invite Dumonceauxs to the December meeting to ask their opinions and advice.
  - 2. What should we do this Advent for shut-ins?
    - a. Eileen suggested checking with Ann Dorsey to see if she is still sending cards. Carol will follow up. We could at least do that much and include Coborn's gift cards for those not in nursing homes. Michaela can be asked to get four more cards; we have six in hand.
    - b. Can we put notes in the bulletin about who might like visitors? Carol will check on that with Julie.
    - c. Susie had some questions about the community meals in Avon.
- G. Adjournment was at 8:06 pm.

SJM—minutes 11-12-18