

2018-19 Social Justice and Ministry Committee Report

The Social Justice and Ministry Committee (SJM) of Saint John the Baptist Parish is a catalyst for parish involvement in social justice and ministry issues.

SJM committee members were: Angeline Dufner, co-chair: Carol Jansky, co-chair; Eileen Haeg, vice-chair/treasurer; Peggy Roske, secretary; Susan McKeon, Mary Quinlivan, Mike Quinlivan Michaela Roske, Michael Roske, Sharon Schmitt

- The committee met monthly September through April (May meeting postponed until June).
- Began reading and discussing the book Lazarus at the Table by Bernie Evans.
- Developed and distributed “Vote Your Values” booklet before November election. Angeline Dufner wrote an introduction to each of seven Catholic social teachings. Carol Jansky developed questions that individuals could ask of candidates to evaluate how well the candidate meshes with the individual’s values. Peggy Roske edited, and formatted the booklet. Michaela Roske printed 50 booklets, all of which were distributed. Electronic copies were sent to the following:
 - Kateri Mancini, Director of Social Concerns in the St. Cloud Diocese, who endorsed it.
 - St. Benedict’s monastery which posted the booklet on their website. S. Mara Faulkner wrote the following email:

From: Faulkner, Mara
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 3:03 PM
To: Dufner, Angeline
Subject: RE: Vote Your Values materials

Dear Angeline,
Thanks so much for sending this wonderful booklet and letting us use it. Our Benedictines for Peace and Justice likes it, as do our community leaders.
So, it will appear attached to our monastery website, either to the home page or to the page devoted to justice issues. Please extend our gratitude to your hard-working committee.

With many blessings,
Mara

- Fr. Steve Binsfield, pastor St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Alexandria who requested it.
 - Non-parishioners requesting copies (approximately 20+ individuals)
- Sponsored a “Reverse Advent Calendar” to collect food for local food shelves. Fourteen boxes of donations were received; seven went to St. Joe’s and seven to Cold Spring’s food shelf. Fifty dollars was donated to both Catholic Charities and St. Joe Food Shelf to take advantage of the Skalicky matching grant.
- Christmas cards and \$10 Coborn Gift Cards were mailed to homebound parishioners.
- Conducted a Creation Care Program January 19-April 27, 2019. A sub-committee of Angeline Dufner, Eileen Haeg, Mary Quinlivan and Carol Jansky met regularly from December to April to plan the program. Three bulletin inserts were prepared, and Creation Care Champion Ideas were included within each week’s bulletin. Parishioners were encouraged to enter a Creation Care prize drawing by adopting one of these ideas or submitting their own idea. Before Lent, a Creation Care prayer was included during the Prayers of the Faithful. During our kickoff weekend we distributed 50 tote bags with an SJB Creation Care logo. On our concluding weekend we planned a celebration that included a tree blessing; a tree planting (tree donated by Tim Haeg, plaque created and donated by Michael Roske); a pizza party; and presentation of

seven Creation Care prizes, ranging from children's prizes to adult prizes, of small environmentally responsible items and a \$50 gift certificate to Thomsen's greenhouse (donated by Carol Jansky). Approximately 50 parishioners participated in the tree blessing; approximately 35 parishioners stayed for pizza. We conducted a survey to evaluate the program's effectiveness. Sixty-six people responded; 80% said they were very concerned about the environment; 59% participated in the program.

- Sponsored the Lenten Stations/Soup/Speaker events which focused on Creation Care. The soup was made by Pat Dwyer. The free-will offering for the soup supper, which totaled \$234 was originally intended for the St. Joe Food Shelf, our 2019-20 parish-wide project. However, this offering was re-directed back to the parish because of financial restrictions on the SJM committee. Left-over soup was taken to the home-bound. The speakers for the series were:
 - Fr. Lew Grobe, steward of Abbey Woodworking and former Sustainability Associate at SJU
 - Tim Oswald, Tri-County Solid Waste Coordinator
 - Cormac Quinn, SJU Environmental Studies major, board member of Climate Action Club, and St. John's Sustainability Fellow
 - Dr. Corrie Grosse, CSB/SJU Environmental Studies, and five students who attended the Climate Change summit in Poland
- Peggy Roske chaired the spring parish rummage sale, which carries out the idea of sharing our resources by reusing and recycling. Mary Quinlivan took a copy of the rummage sale flyer to Cultural Bridges.
- We mourned the loss of our committee's founder, Angeline Dufner, April 5, 2019.
- We plan to end the year with a potluck in June.