

Minutes of the Social Justice & Ministry Committee

Feb. 19, 2024, 7 p.m. via Zoom

Members present: Michael & Peggy R. (co-chairs), Eileen H., Carol J., Mary & Mike Q. & Jean D.

- A. Michael read an opening prayer.
- B. The SJM minutes from January 15 were approved as distributed.
- C. There were no adjustments to the agenda.
- D. Announcements and Reports:
 - 1. Report on the budget by Eileen:
 - a. Julie said the council approved \$500, not \$1200.
 - b. With the cost of soup & speaker fees, we will be over budget.
 - c. Michael was never told that it had been reduced.
 - d. Eileen has asked that we be billed by SJU at the end, once, for all the soup.
 - e. Laundry Love's payment didn't make it to the Catholic Worker, so Julie issued a new check.
 - 2. Social justice programming: There were a lot of offerings in the Catholic Charities Social Concerns newsletter email Peggy forwarded in mid-January. She also forwarded the Habitat for Humanity newsletter at the end of January, and JRLC and ISAIAH emails in February. With spring break approaching, there aren't any current offerings. Remember that Jon Armajani is addressing the topic of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict during Faith Formation on Sunday, the 25th.
 - 3. Cultural Bridges: Mary reported a successful community dinner last evening, with 60 people. Due to turnover in sewing teachers, more are being sought for the summer classes for Somalis in St. Joe. Some Bridges members met with Sandra Mitchell, the CSBSJU diversity officer, and they hope to do some things together. She had some ideas about a college student doing an internship with Cultural Bridges. They hope to meet a couple of times a year.
 - 4. Laundry Love was pretty low-key when Michael filled in for Mike in January; there were no students (it was winter break), just families. Mike noted that they are cultivating a roster of more volunteers, such as some of the Sisters and people from Theology. Eileen had noticed on Facebook that there is now a limit per family of \$8.00 in St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids. More donations are always welcome.
 - 5. Habitat for Humanity has moved from Wednesday afternoons to Thursdays. They have had some staff changes, with a volunteer taking over as site supervisor. More funding is needed to complete the St. Joe Genesis house. Michael heard that the new director has been doing well at getting grants.
 - 6. Albany food shelf: Jean spoke with the person who runs it (Edna Goebel). They are getting a fair amount of funding and food from Second Harvest and seem to have enough volunteers. They are officially open only two hours a month, but she will accommodate people who contact her at other times.
- E. Soup & Speaker
 - 1. Publicity: Peggy will be continuing to post the speakers on the campus' Daily Bulletin, and they're in the parish bulletins and emails from Julie. Do we want to do anything else to promote them? Jean suggested we target some of the other local parishes. Peggy will check with Julie to see about getting the poster out to the Avon and Cold Spring parishes. Mary offered to send it to the Lutheran church in St. Joe.

2. Eileen said there will be two gallons each of two different kinds of soup each week.
 3. Food to go with the soups:
 - a. Desserts: there are cookies in the freezer, some of them from Christmas, others from the Fish Fry and Fr. Brad's birthday reception, and also a large pan of wrapped Rice Krispie bars. Eileen offered to go to the Parish Center on Wednesday morning to get things out of the freezer. We probably don't need too much more, but Michael will make some brownies.
 - b. Breads: Michael & Peggy have some Johnny bread and a loaf of multigrain from the co-op.
 4. Who's doing what (refer to Tasks List, distributed with the Agenda):
 - a. Pick up the soups at SJU: Michael will do that.
 - b. Take desserts and bread out of the freezer: Eileen will do that.
 - c. Set up the technology: Brian Posch said he would be there. There is a newly installed projection screen mounted behind the altar now (with the switch inside the storage room), so presentations will be taking place there from now on instead of in the far corner.
 - d. Setting up tables & chairs – should be in place from Wednesday morning coffee. Will need a table by the patio doors for the bread, butter & desserts, and possibly more tables & chairs.
 - e. Jean suggested having the tasks list laminated so the tasks can be checked off as completed.
 5. Speaker introductions (already drafted):
 - a. Peggy will do the introductions (unless anyone else volunteers) except for the March 6th speaker. Carol offered to do that one (on migration & refugees).
 6. Peggy suggested doing a survey seeking feedback and suggestions for distribution at the talks. She will draft something.
 7. Designating the free will offerings: it was approved to donate them to Habitat for Humanity.
- F. New business:
1. Peggy had sent the latest Homeless Helping Homeless letter to the committee; nobody else had received it. Eileen noted that the Abbey was now designating their mass donations to local causes.
 2. Mary reported that she'd heard that Unite Cloud was closing down. She will forward the email to everyone.
 3. Eileen noticed that Emily Chapalkar is promoting "Lasagna Love."
 4. Saint Ben's Monastery requested the booklet from "Vote Your Values"; Peggy sent it, and asked the Sisters if they would share their edits and updates with us.
- G. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53.

The next SJM meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 18th.