

St. Pascal Social Justice and Caring Committee Minutes
June 5, 2025
In-Person Meeting at St. Pascal's (Staff Lounge) @ 6:30 pm

PRESENT: Laurie Dimond, Mary Weyandt, Carol DePouw, Bruce & Sue Labno (phone), Christine Malec, Margaret Malec, Mary Huettl, Julie Moore, Kim Roering, Julie Ludden, Chris Igielski, Fr. John Mitchell, Martha Arko

PRAYER: Margaret Malec

OLD BUSINESS

- Forming “Justice Response Team” (Mary W.)
 - Mary signed up for the Archdiocesan Immigration Collaborative, a group formed by St. Catherine University Lilly Grant congregations.
 - Goal is to address timely topics with the Immigration group, along with other established St. Pascal parish groups: Beacon (housing), Merrick/St. Pascal's/Progressive (food insecurity), Care for Creation Team, others?
 - Seeking other SJCC members to collaborate in order to stay current on issues of the greatest priority and urgency
 - Bill interested in joining the Immigration Collaborative
- Reviving the “Faith in Action” post in Pulse/Bulletin (Mary W.)
 - Kim shared a document, “2025 All Justice Challenges” that presents a weekly challenge throughout the year
 - Word Count is 175 words. Publish once a week, bi-weekly, monthly?
 - A small team will work on reviving the Faith in Action column in the Bulletin and Pulse, using the challenge document as a starting point
 - Kim will review submissions from Mary W, Anne W, and/or Julie M on Fridays before submission to Thea on Mondays
 - Bulletin deadline is 5 pm on Monday. Pulse deadline is 5 pm on Wednesday.
 - Topics will cover a variety of issues, perhaps in collaboration with other parish groups and the “Justice Response Team” to ensure issues of urgency are captured
 - Focus on Action Items; Julie Moore will do Thursday June 12 (Beacon)
- National Night Out—August 5 (Mary W./Kim)
 - First organizational meeting held on May 28. Reviewed notes from last year. Ideas that surfaced and are being explored: Southeast Asian food option (maybe for 2026), soliciting donations from places like Ha Tien Market and other similar places in addition to our “usual” list, how do we disseminate photos if participants would like them. If this is a community outreach event, how are we welcoming the diverse population in our East side community? Bill Dorgan suggested some verbiage to add to the flyer.
 - Next meeting is Thursday, June 19 at 6:30 pm via Zoom

NEW BUSINESS

- WeCare Campaign Recipients for June 28/29 (Chris M.)
 - Bridging, Second Harvest, Foodprize
- Beacon Team (Julie M.)
 - May 29 Legislative Update and Outlook

- The June 18 “Defend Federal Support for Affordable Housing” event will be held at St. Pascal’s. It is an update for East Side congregations. Both Representative Betty McCollum and Senator Amy Klobuchar are invited. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to write to federal representatives. There will be a powerpoint and panel discussion, and end with refreshments and discussion.
- Assembly - Ann Lemke gave a presentation about the Aragon Project. St. Pascal’s was recognized officially as a Beacon member parish. The Gladstone project is currently on the backburner due to funding issues.
- Care for Creation Team (Bruce/Sue/Bill)
 - First meeting was held May 14 - discussed interests and issues...for the parish, specific topic areas, questions raised...16 people signed up and 12 attended
 - Parish Activities - periodic care for creation speakers to open up to parish, identify connection with Catholic Social Teaching and Ladato Se, Fr. John agreeing to work topics into homilies, Care for Creation thoughts for the Bulletin and Pulse
 - Solid Waste Management: How do we recycle? How can we recycle better? Tour Eureka and other recycling center. How can recycling be done more effectively in high density housing?
 - Trash at Home: Where does it go? Trip to Ramsey Co center in Newport
 - Water Use and Management
 - Pollinator Management
 - What is Ecojustice? How can ecojustice be included in St. Pascal justice activities
 - Next meeting on Monday, June 16 at 6:30 pm at St. Pascal’s
 - Laurie Dimond referenced the handout from Dr. Bernard Brady (University of St. Thomas) and section on Care for Creation
 - Bill Dorgan also attended the May 14 meeting and it was recognized that there are cultural/language issues in high density housing around recycling and waste

OTHER

Fr John - End of the Year for the current Lilly Grant funds: funded the Seder Meal, Spring Family Fiesta, Living Through Loss, Small Group book (Living the Mass). The parish can and still will continue involvement with the Lilly Grant at St. Kate’s. Would the team be interested in an educational opportunity to explore the history of the Archdiocese, using the graphic novel. Discuss further in July.

REPORTS

Progressive: Continuing to serve 150+ families each week. Concern remains with numbers of Spanish-speakers

Merrick: Next distribution is June 23. Thanks to Dean and Abbey Rademacher, we are expecting new signage for the corner of Third & Flandrau.

Donation Closet:

- June - Brittany’s Place
- July - Merrick
- August - Progressive Fishes and Loaves

Handout from Dr. Bernard Brady via Laurie Dimond - “Live wisely, think deeply, and love generously” (Pope Francis)

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 10, 2025 (In-Person through October and Zoom in November - March) - discussion about looking ahead to the next 6 months

PRAYER FOR JULY: Mary Huettl