

St. Pascal Social Justice and Caring Committee Minutes
July 10, 2025
In-Person Meeting at St. Pascal's (Staff Lounge) @ 6:30 pm

PRESENT: Julie Moore, Chris Igielski, Mary Huettl, Bill Dorgan, Fr. John Mitchell, Carol DePouw, Sue Labno, Bruce Labno, Kim Roering, Chris Malec, Margaret Malec, Mary Weyandt, Laurie Dimond, Martha Arko

PRAYER: Mary Huettl

OLD BUSINESS

- **Faith in Action (Mary W)** - Anne and Mary Weyandt will prepare a Faith in Action item for July soon (for Bulletin and Pulse), and will send a preview to Kim
- **The Lilly Congregation Immigration Collaborative (Mary W)** met via Zoom on 6/10/25
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 - Authored and sent a letter to Archbishop Hebda, and Mary W can share if anyone is interested. Have yet to hear a response from Archbishop Hebda.
 - The group is planning on joining a future vigil, planned by ICOM (Interfaith Coalition on Immigration). Currently ICOM hosts a vigil at 7:30 am outside of the Federal Immigration Courtroom on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.
 - Many congregations have and will be using the immigration module of "Just Faith." The group will meet regularly to share other resources.
 - Marty Roers (CSJ Justice Office) met with the group and can be a resource to the group and congregations moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Beacon Team Update (Julie M.)** - Successful meeting at St. Pascal's to educate folks on impact of legislation ("Big Beautiful Bill") on housing funding for homeless, folks in supportive housing, medicaid, SNAP, etc. Beacon will continue to advocate for Section 8 vouchers and the impact of folks losing vouchers due to legislation. Beacon encourages folks to remain in contact with local legislators. If interested, contact Julie Moore (0109jmm@gmail.com) to attend the monthly "Rent is Due" information session.
- **Care for Creation Team Update (Bruce/Sue)** - The team met on June 16 and continued to discuss interest. Recycling and trash management is of greatest interest, and the team will visit the Washington County Energy, Recycling, and Management Center. Fr. John has investigated Pope Leo's Mass for the Care of Creation. The goal is to determine what St. Pascal's can do and how to help families to take action at home. The next meeting is Monday, July 21st via Zoom.
- **Looking Ahead to the Next 6 Months: Donation Closet, Focus Areas, etc. (Kim)** -
 - Reviewed the donation closet rotation. Wondering, can we continue with the Catholic Charities Giving Tree? Julie Moore, Bill Dorgan, and Chris Igielski volunteered to do delivery to Catholic Charities. Would the winter clothing drive be better earlier? Swapping Brittany's Place (to January) and moving clothing drive (Joseph's Coat) to November.
 - Bill Dorgan shared information about Guiding Star Wakota (on St. Paul's West Side) as a possible recipient of the We Care Campaign.
www.guidingstarwakota.org
 - Chris Igielski also suggested that Beacon be considered as a We Care Campaign recipient.

REPORTS

- **Progressive:** Continuing to serve 150+ families each week.
- **Merrick:** Next distribution is July 28.
- **Donation Closet:**
 - **July** - Merrick Backpack Drive (Mary W can deliver)
 - **August** - Progressive Fishes and Loaves (Cleaning Supplies, Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent)
 - **September** - Listening House
- **National Night Out—August 5 (Mary W./Kim):** Next planning meeting is via Zoom at 6:30 pm on Thursday, July 17. Invitations have been sent to parish neighbors and door prize donations have started coming in. Flyers will also be included in Merrick and Progressive Food Distribution bags this month.
- **Blood Drive from July 7 (Margaret)** - Collected 34 units, just shy of the goal of 38 units. The next drives are on Monday, September 8th at Grace Lutheran and Monday, November 3rd at St. Pascal's.

OTHER - none

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 7, 2025 (in person)

Please read "Live Wisely" by Dr. Bernard Brady for discussion.

PRAYER FOR AUGUST: Sue Labno