

**St. Pascal Social Justice and Caring Committee Minutes**  
**August 7, 2025**  
**In-Person Meeting at St. Pascal's (Staff Lounge) @ 6:30 pm**

**PRESENT:** Fr John Mitchell, Margaret Malec, Martha Arko, Julie Ludden, Laurie Dimond, Christine Malec, Kim Roering, Mary Weyandt, Sue Labno, Bruce Labno, Julie Moore

**PRAYER:** Sue Labno

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Beacon Team Update (Julie M.)

- Highlights from postcard campaign:
  - Received from parishioners:
    - 35 postcards-Congresswoman McCollum
    - 31 postcards-Senator Smith
    - 38 postcards-Senator Klobuchar
    - 5 postcards from districts outside of Congresswoman McCollum's District
    - We started with 50 postcards, so we felt that this was a good turnout.
- Rent is Due Highlights:

Federal legislators are on their summer break and should reconvene September 2. The Federal Budget deadline is September 29th. If they don't agree on a budget they will try to pass a continuing resolution, which basically continues with the current budget. If they do not pass this, there could be a government shutdown as early as December.
- House Budget: Passed out of Appropriations and they continue to refine it so that they can agree on specific details. Drastic cuts for Section 8 tenant and project based vouchers, Also cuts in homeless grants and operating funds to continue care for Native American housing.
- Senate Budget: Passed out of Appropriations committee and there are fewer drastic cuts in Section 8 tenant and project based vouchers, possible slight increase in continuum of care budgets.
- When both the House and Senate reconvene in September, they will continue to work on final budgets. Still an ideal time to contact federal legislators to make your voice heard, especially if you are in Republican congressional districts.

Care for Creation Team Update (Bruce/Sue)

The first step of the team is "What happens with trash?" There is a September 24 trip at 11 am to Ramsey and Washington County Recycling and Energy Center. So far 12 people signed up, with room for 25. 90 minute tour. Next meeting is Monday, August 18 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Immigration Collaborative (Mary W./Fr. John)

- Letter composed to Archbishop (concern of action, referred to bishop of San Diego, absolving Mass obligation). Response from the Archbishop's office is that letter was received.
- Group may be setting up meeting with Archbishop Hebda
- Groups working with Marty Roers to discuss CST. In person and virtual. JustFaith group via zoom will be implementing the immigration module
- Offered the resource "Witness at the Border"
- Seeking collaborative action, such as prayer and protest event at Cathedral
- Ascension (Anne Attea) may be connecting with Bishop Kevin Kenney
- A Million Miles Away movie and others may be part of a movie series at St Pascal's, such as offerings at other congregations in the collaborative.
- Next meeting 1 pm via Zoom on September 2

#### National Night Out Recap/Feedback:

- There were about 200 people in attendance.
- Visits from County Commissioner Mai Xiong and Rep. Liz Lee, Fire Station 24, The Free Book Buggy, SPPD Bike Patrol, and Sgt. Fuzz. Tables from Scouts, Metro Transit Gold Line, St. Pascal Regional Catholic School.
- The family of Sa'Moryia (child hit by car at 5<sup>th</sup> and White Bear in July) was invited and came. There was a card for people to sign and info to contribute to GoFundMe. Mai Xiong and her aide Winona spoke with family, and made a connection for them with Ramsey County Emergency Fund.

#### Suggestions/Adjustments for Next Year -

- Helpful to assign people assigned to certain jobs, such as:
  - Prep door prize cans and number prizes
  - 1 person to monitor when water/lemonade/food items are running low (before completely out) and let kitchen know
  - 1-2 people guide people to the welcome table, and 1-2 to help people carry plates/cups if needed.
  - 1 person to make sure there are enough supplies on hand for NNO (plates/napkins/cups/mustard/ketchup/lemonade) two weeks ahead of time (in case we need to order more)
  - 1 person to take care of ordering/picking up balloons
  - Someone to prepare lemonade and water early in day to refrigerate
  - Someone to do calls for door prize winners who are not present (unless we say must be present to win)
  - Someone to update signs if needed. Carla Hibbison may be willing/able to do this (she made original signs).
- For Kitchen:
  - Per Cindy Reisdorf: Only need one pot boiling hot dogs and 3 crock pots

- Make sure there is an extension cord available for outside to plug the crock pot in.
- Conversation as to start time for serving...do we wait until 6 pm start time or start serving as soon as people are there if they arrive early?
- Serve all-beef hot dogs?
- Kid's Goodie Bags:
  - These were all gone by 6:45 pm. We had assembled 50. Consider making more for next year.
  - Question came up about bags for kids older than 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Maybe backpacks or knapsacks with supplies and fun things?
- Garbage/Compost:
  - Put more garbage/compost containers out, recycling if needed. (We did not anticipate needing recycling due to the last minute decision to use Coke and Bubbly water as an option for drinks). Also more signage regarding what goes in compost and what is trash.
- Seating/Set Up:
  - Set up was 9 tables with 6 chairs each for dining. Took out 8 more chairs for seating at one point. Consider planning to have more tables and chairs ready from the outset.
  - Fr. John asked if we want to consider having a large tent.
  - Better to have more seating closer to food???
  - Consider timing of setting up tables/chairs/canopies. There were only a couple NNO volunteers there in the morning in addition to Mike Kelleher, Faustino, Fr. John and 3 gentlemen from Morning Mass. Is it better to wait until afternoon?
- Welcome Table and Signage:
  - Seems to be a good spot, but a lot was happening (name tags, tickets, etc.) leading to questions of...
    - Do we need food tickets and kid's goodie bag tickets?
    - Should we consider using tear off numbered tickets for door prizes? This would mean people would have to be present to win, and would kids/parents be able to keep track of those...
    - Possible to have another table behind the welcome table where people could fill out name tags and door prize tickets?
    - In 2024 we started putting together a handout with upcoming events. Do we need/want this...there were 75 copies made and only about 25 given out. Maybe put in kid's goodie bags.
- Door Prizes:
  - Should the cart be outside so people can see prizes (especially those that are not certificates/gift cards) and, if so, do we need someone to monitor?

- Do we need more directional signage and/or volunteers to help people get to the welcome table/food area? The suggestion of balloons offered last year and implemented this year seemed to help. The welcome table was also under a blue canopy, standing out from the other white canopies.
- DJ/Music:
  - Speaker was in a better spot for hearing music and not being overpowered, but placement seemed isolated.
  - Possibly look at ways to ensure there is some kind of interaction and acknowledgement of what is happening, such as these examples: “Thanks to the Fire Department for coming.” “Welcome Mai Xiong and Liz Lee.” “The Free Book Buggie is on site now until...thanks for coming and making books available.” “We are so glad to have all of you here tonight.”
- Already prepped for 2026 and located in NNO tote (if we keep things the same; can always change and recycle what is printed)
  - 100 Kid’s Goodie Bag tickets (for age 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade—can change and re-run if needed)
  - 225 food tickets
  - 750 Door Prize Tickets
  - Bag with rocks for holding down papers/napkins if needed
  - There are also the following items for kid’s goodie bags:
    - 16 sunglasses
    - 3 jump ropes
    - 8 bubble wands
    - 14 beach balls
    - 109 glow sticks
- Miscellaneous for 2026:
  - Yard Signs are in the parish cage in large storeroom
  - NNO tote is currently (August 2025) in the faith formation room.
  - Brad Chin is a K9 officer with SPPD and occasionally he and his dog Banner and other K9 officers/dogs train at St. Pascal’s. He is willing to come if available or try to find another officer. Just needs to know the time frame and what we would like him to do. Brad’s cell number is 612-508-0018.
    - Mary’s note: Fr John and Mike Kelleher spoke to Brad and gave him the details after mass, and Brad told them that he would try to make it.
- Mary’s note: In light of the increasing turn-out for this event, work on recruiting more volunteers. The new parishioner list was invited by the parish council and many of those folks were helping at clean-up.

## "Live Wisely" document discussion - Tabled to September

### **REPORTS**

- Progressive: Continuing to serve 150+ families each week.
- Merrick: Next distribution is August 25, 2025. There were fewer non-perishable items delivered this month, so a few people made a run to Costco for macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables, and peanut butter. Kim followed up with Josh who noted that he wasn't able to pack our order as normal and some items were obviously missed. There is a lower quantity of food available from Second Harvest as well. (Progressive has also been experiencing this.)
- Donation Closet:
  - August - Progressive Fishes and Loaves (Cleaning Supplies, Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent)
  - September - Listening House
  - October - Options for Women East
- Other:

**OTHER** - none

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, September 4, 2025 in person

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

**PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER:** Laurie Dimond

### **PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER:**

Recipients for October WeCare Campaign (October 25/26)