

St. Pascal Social Justice and Caring Committee Minutes
September 4, 2025
In-Person Meeting at St. Pascal's (Staff Lounge) @ 6:30 pm

PRESENT: Fr John Mitchell, Margaret Malec, Julie Ludden, Martha Arko, Kim Roering, Christine Malec, Mary Huettl, Chris Igielski, Bill Dorgan, Mary Weyandt, Mary Tacheny, Sue Labno, Bruce Labno

PRAYER: Mary Huettl

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Catholic Community Foundation Grant Opportunity (Fr. John) - handout, New CCF Grant Opportunity, applications due Sept 26 - grants for training, grants, programs, speakers, supporting parishioners (Care Committee), larger community initiatives (food), grants from \$250 - \$4,000. Fr John presented a food recycling center used by the school.
 - Fr John asked for folks interested in working with him on this grant opportunity - Bruce & Sue Labno and Mary Tacheny volunteered
 - Mary Huettl would like to see the return of Just Faith
- Recipients for October WeCare Campaign October 25/26, suggestions -
 - Annunciation is already on the parish website
 - Women's Club beekeeping initiative in Africa
 - One World Surgery - Dr. Peter Daley started the Holy Family Surgery Center in Honduras - <https://oneworldsurgery.org> (Mary Tacheny)
 - San Lucas Toliman
 - Red Lake
 - Cross Catholic Outreach (building homes in Guatemala) - <https://crosscatholic.org>
 - Next Step Program (Hennepin Healthcare) - support for survivors of violence - <https://www.hennepinhealthcare.org/support-services/next-step-program/>
 - The committee decided upon Next Step Program and Cross Catholic Outreach
- Response/Action Team - In light of Annunciation (gun violence) and ongoing issues around ICE and immigration (Mary W.) presented ways to respond - Pulse, Faith in Action, Bulletin, parish website/social justice page. Mary put the invitation for anyone to join in the conversation on this topic, with the okay from Fr. John and Kim.
- Accompaniment (Mary W) - With immigration, can we consider accompaniment, perhaps building an immigrant and parishioner small business support list on our website, much like has been done at Incarnation (Mpls) - <https://www.sagradompls.org/new-shopping-experience?> The committee agreed to look at the Incarnation sample and discuss further.
- Determining Chairperson (Kim) - Kim, along with Fr John, will continue to be staff liaisons to the committee. Fr John reminded the committee that lay people are encouraged to chair committees. Mary Weyandt volunteered to chair. Volunteers to take minutes at future meetings: Chris Igielski (October), Bill Dorgan (November), Mary H (December), Mary Margaret Tacheny (January).

REPORTS

Progressive: Target is now a source of rescue food every Friday for Progressive. Lots of cleaning supplies were donated by St. Pascal's to Progressive during August.

Merrick: The next distribution is September 22, 2025. After emailing Josh at Merrick about last month's order, Kim received the August order. The non-perishable items were supplemented by the generous NNO donation leftovers from Mondlez (via Gerald Nwoye). Staging and distribution were changed in order to have less congestion in the breezeway and less wear and tear on carts. Guests reported at check-in that the signs (at Flandrau & Third, the Third Street parking lot entrance, and Third & White Bear) drew them to the distribution. All food was distributed by 4:15 pm.

Donation Closet:

- September - Listening House
- October - Options for Women East (Julie Ludden looking for a partner to assist with drop off of donations)
- November - Joseph's Coat (Mary Weyandt) - hats, mittens, gloves, scarves

Beacon: No update

Immigration Coalition: Met on Tuesday, September 2 and identified two collaborative initiatives -

- developing a resource guide for the participating congregations to use and publicize, and
- planning a Lent 2026 formation opportunity around immigration issues and actions (to be offered in multiple locations).
- In addition, the group discussed action/advocacy around prisons for profit, including the proposed immigration detention center in Appleton, MN as well as potential prayer/vigil experiences.

Care for Creation Team: The tour of the Ramsey/Washington County Recycling and Energy Recovery Center is confirmed for Wednesday, September 24 at 10:30 am. The tour is 1.5 hours. Considering signage in different languages for food scraps/trash management. Washington County has a free six-week training on becoming a "Recycling Ambassador". Looking to include Care for Creation topics in bulletin/Pulse. The next meeting is Monday, September 15 and the group will discuss carpooling for the recycling site visit. Bruce contacted the St. Thomas More C4C group and they will be speaking about their experience at the September meeting.

OTHER

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 2, 2025 in person (moving to Zoom in November)

PRAYER FOR OCTOBER: Martha Arko

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS FOR OCTOBER:

"Live Wisely" document conversation