

St. Pascal Social Justice and Caring Committee Minutes - October 2, 2025

In-Person Meeting at St. Pascal's (Staff Lounge) @ 6:30 pm

"Hope is love in the process of becoming...":

PRAYER: Martha Arko MINUTES: Chris Igielski

Present- Fr. John Mitchell, Kim Roering, Julie Ludden, Martha Arko, Sue Labno, Bruce Labno, Carol De Pauw, Julie Moore, Chris Malec, Ann Madlung, Mary Tacheney, Bill Dorgan, Margaret Malec, Mary Weyandt, Laurie Dimond, Chris Igielski

DISCUSSION ITEMS

● "Live Wisely" document – Reviewed document from Dr. Bernard Brady PhD UST on catholic social teaching with parish in mind. Members commented on ideas of paper that struck them. Themes mentioned included: care for creation; option for the poor; Life and dignity, Beacon - with respect to low-cost housing; working for the common good; solidarity--accompany one another; working for poor and vulnerable and dignity and rights of workers.

Catholics meet at Mass, but how do we carry that "eucharist" out into the world in terms of social justice? Go forth and love and serve one another. Simple suggestion to church members to spiritual action of "What thing can you do this week to love and serve one another"? How did St. Pascal Baylon, our church's patron saint work for the poor?

Fr. John's homilies encourage the faithful to do and not just to hear the Gospel. Kids in St. Pascal Regional Catholic School and St. Pascal's Faith Formation also learn how to work for others.

In November return to discussion of document on Catholic Social Teaching, and discuss further "what we want to do, how, why, for whom do we act." Anything of interest in the SJ bandwidth- judge what to do then do it. How do we frame the idea of Catholic Social Teaching? How does it run through each work of ministry? Try to find what "item, term, etc." to tie all together. SJ issue. See, Judge, Act.

REPORTS-

Catholic Community Foundation Grant Update -

Fr. John filed a grant application for \$4000 to include money for improving recycling/compost/trash bins, Merrick signs for parish food distribution, and \$1000 for 1 month of food for Merrick distribution (if we get the grant).

Beacon has some resources for Gladstone Crossing- Maplewood housing, not building now, but has some possible forward action (continuum of care money in state budgets). The Aragon is on hold until December-will depend on government funding discussions.

Crisis Resource Handout --Mary Huettl suggested putting up signs in bathrooms with crisis resource information (mental health, food resources, emergency numbers, etc.)

Response/Action Team & Faith in Action

Just Faith collaborative possibility with another parish on immigration coalition. Call Jim Carney 763-257-6279 to set up meeting regarding further discussion. JFM Faith and Immigrant Justice program.

Immigration Coalition:

- Next Meeting: Tuesday October 7, 1 pm (via Zoom)
- [Text of Cardinal McElroy's Homily for World Day of Migrants and Refugees](#)
- Church of St. Timothy is planning a week-long service learning trip to the US/Mexico border in January 2026. There is an information session on Tuesday, October 7 at 7 pm at the church. An electronic flyer is available (tell Mary W if interested) or if interested but cannot make the info session, you can contact Cindy Novak at cnovak@churchofsttimothy.com
- There is currently an email chain about collective Latino ministries around the archdiocese, including the streaming of mass in Spanish for folks who are feeling in-person attendance is unsafe. The coalition is working to learn about what each congregation is experiencing: how many Latino parishioners are in each congregation, and what kinds of ministry or support is each parish providing...

Progressive- Julie Ludden brought a Flyer from Progressive. Not all food served last Saturday but lady came late and took all that was left to feed 3 families in her home.

Merrick: The next distribution is October 27, 2025. All 60 orders of food were distributed by 4:30 pm on Monday, September 22. 32 Volunteers were there including 2 people serving for first time.

Donation Closet:

Listening House - September-delivery by Bill Dorgan, Chris & Tom Igielski; 200 people daily come to LH. Open Times changing to afternoons and evenings starting October.

- October - Options for Women East
- November - Joseph's Coat - hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, blankets
- December Donation Closet: Giving Tree/Angel Tree

Catholic Charities, **Giving Tree** Kim sets it up – volunteers to take gifts to Catholic Charities site on Plato in St. Paul, thru 12/24 (Julie Moore, Bill Dorgan, Chris Igielski).

Angel tree ornaments - specific gifts for families of people in prison. Mary Weyandt coordinates this. See Nov further discussion.

We Care Campaign-June 6-28-25 Total \$4,631.47

Bridging-\$1,885.49; Second Harvest Heartland-\$860.49; Youthprise Nutrition Program \$1,885.49

Care for Creation Team: NEXT MEETING: Oct. 20 at St. Pascal's at 6:30pm. Recycling tour date rescheduled due to machinery problem. Possible tour date Wed. Nov. 12, afternoon.

PRAYER FOR NOVEMBER: Mary Tacheny **Next Meeting** Nov. 6, zoom 6:30 pm

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER:

- Return to discussion of "Live Wisely"