

St. Pascal's Social Justice and Caring Committee Minutes – November 6, 2025 ZOOM

Prayer: Mary Tacheny

Chair: Mary Weyandt

Minutes: Bill Dorgan

Present – Fr. John Michell, Kim Roering, Gerold Nwoye, Martha Arko, Chris Malec, Margaret Malec, Mary Weyandt, Chris Igirski, Kris Stadler, Julie Ludden, Mary Huettl and Bill Dorgan.

Mary Weyandt asked that each of us share introductions by responding to our reading of “Live Wisely” for its meaning as a motivation to the future. Each of us shared some ways in which it helped us grow as a SJCC and parish member.

REPORTS

Catholic Community Foundation Grant: Father John reported that St. Pascal's was awarded \$3900 from the Foundation to be used in different ways for needs at the church including waste receptacles, Merrick Team Signs and printing for different events.

Chris Malec said that she found that there are many options for signs in Spanish about waste and recycling on the Internet that can be purchased as needed.

Options For Women – East: Julie Ludden and Ann Madlung reported on their Tour of the “Options for Women – East” located on White Bear Ave. that provides special services for women. She encouraged others on the committee to tour and learn what the center does and the volunteer opportunities that are available.

Progressive Food Shelf: Julie Ludden also said the Progressive Food Shelf was highlighted with Reverend Paul Johnson last week on Channel 9 TV News Show. They have an increased number of people participating because of anticipation the SNAP Program will be cut. They are also concerned because “Second Harvest” will have to cut back on support for the program.

Blood Drive: Margaret Malec reported that the Monday, November 3 Drive collected 30 units and thus was very successful in helping 99 people who benefited from the units of blood.

The Two Popes: Bill Dorgan had sent along with the agenda a letter he called “The Two Popes” as his response to the “Live Wisely” document from St. Thomas. He saw the letter as a short concise summary of some of what the report had to offer in terms of recommendations for action that the committee could make for members of the parish.

Bill asks that the Social Justice Committee approve the final letter to be presented to parish members. The intent is to publish the letter in the Bulletin as a one page sheet and also in the Pulse where appropriate. The hope was to encourage members to serve as volunteers to help those in need.

There was no real response to the letter from members at the meeting. Martha Arko did say that more specific examples of volunteer opportunities should be included in the letter. Kim Roering also said we should have continuing lists in the Pulse of opportunities for service. Mary Weyandt then suggested, and it was decided that the letter should be referred to a subcommittee for review and recommendations be made for the next meeting. Several members volunteered for the committee.

Merrick Food Shelf: Mary Weyandt shared the fact that the Merrick Food Shelf at St. Pascal's is serving about 60 people and that Merrick much appreciates that St. Pascal's has increased substantially the Church's contribution to the food shelf's effort to meet the needs as they develop.

Angel Tree Program: Mary Weyandt said we will hear more about the program next month. We have 24 Children who we need to serve this Christmas. These are in families who live in the St. Pascal's neighborhood and have a parent in a correctional setting.

Prayer Vigil for Immigration: Will be held on Sunday November 9th at the Cathedral at 4:15 p.m. Anne and Mary Weyandt plan to be there.

Care for Creation Report: Bill Dorgan said there is a Tour planned for Care Committee members to go to the Ramsey-Washington County's Recycling Center next Wednesday the 12th at 1:30 PM. The next Care For Creation meeting will be on November 20th.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 4th via Zoom

December Prayer: Mary Huettl

December Minutes: Mary Huettl