

St. Pascal Social Justice and Caring Committee Minutes

December 4, 2025

PRESENT: Father John Mitchell, Kim Roering, Martha Arko, Chris Malek, Margaret Malek., Mary Weyandt, Chris Igielski, Julie Ludden, Julie Moore, Bill Dorgan, Gerald Nwoye, Sue Labno, Bruce Labno, Laurie Dimond, Carol DePauw, Mary Huettl

PRAYER: Mary Huettl

MINUTES: Mary Huettl

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Crisis Response Flyer: Mary Huettl reported that she had located a Crisis Response sheet already developed by the Walk-In Counseling Center in Minneapolis available to be reprinted. Father John said that Barb Ushold Anderson also had prepared one. Mary W., Laurie, Kim and Mary H. will work together on compiling a list that works for the purpose of posting it in the bathrooms at the church and have it available in the gathering space for people to pick up. Mary W. suggested adding a QR code with the resources available. Fr John shared a resources document developed by Barb Ushold Anderson for consideration.

The Popes Call Us to Act: There was unanimous praise for BIII's summary of this. Laurie suggested a link to the whole document, Live Wisely (prepared by Dr. Bernard Brady, Theology department at the University of St. Thomas) in case people are interested in reading that. Kim said she saw this as a way to live out our baptismal call. Father John suggested that the name of the document be included. Kim and Mary W will work on the previously started format to be included in the Pulse and the Bulletin.

Reports:

Progressive: Julie L. reported there are a lot more first-timers coming to pick up food, with a large order to pack on Wednesday and faithful packers. Fishes and Loaves is seeing more unsheltered people from the encampment along the river.

Merrick: All food was distributed on Nov 24 with cars lined up from both directions. The group decided to give gift cards for distribution with a goal of 60 cards (they have 37 so far). You can give cash or cards to Kim or submit a donation to the St. Pascal's/Merrick Food Distribution.

Donation Closet: So many were donated that they would not all fit in the car and a third appointment for drop off at Joseph's was needed. Items are coming in for both the Giving Tree and the Angel Tree. Mary W. would like help on the 22nd. January donations will go to Brittany's Place with Julie L. and Martha scheduled for distribution. February donations go to the Listening House. Mary H. will deliver.

Beacon: Julie and Rich Moore attended a gathering on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. It was very positive with over 300 there. Bishop Kenny was in attendance. Julie also reported

that with Gov. Walz shutting down the housing stabilization act, there is still 62 million to be spent. All of the housing agencies are asking that this be spent for housing.

Immigration Coalition: Met on Zoom on Tuesday, December 2nd to debrief following the Rosary Prayer Vigil at the Cathedral on November 9. Gerald, Mary W. and Anne W. attended. More discussion in January about the possibility of St. Pascal's and other congregations hosting regional prayer vigils. Father John told us that his friend, Father Edison, is Ecuadorian and is pastor of a parish (Sagrado Corazon) with a large Ecuadorian population. They need to lock their doors during the Spanish Masses as they are afraid of ICE agents coming in during Mass.

Care for Creation team: Sue and Bruce reported. There was a meeting in November with 9 people in attendance. They discussed their tour of the recycling center with people reporting having learned a lot. There were more questions than the tour guide had time to answer. She may come to give a talk at St. Pascal's in the future.

Options for Women - East: Located at 891 White Bear Avenue is looking for volunteers on Thursday, December 11th from 6-8. Sign up via SignUp Genius at the St. Pascal's website or by contacting SJCC member, Ann Madlung.

Items for next agenda: Accola, We Care Campaign for the weekend of March 7th-8th.

Next Meeting: January 8, 2026 via Zoom

Prayer: Martha Arko

Minutes: Mary Tachney