

St. Pascal Social Justice and Caring Committee Meeting Minutes February 5, 2025

Mary Weyandt called the zoom meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Present were: Bill Dorgan, Chris Malec, Margaret Malec, Kim Roering, Fr. John Mitchell, Carol DePouw, Mary Huettl, Ann Madlung, Mary Tacheny, Julie Moore, Mary Weyandt, Bruce and Sue Labno, Chris Igielski, Laurie Dimond,

Chris Malec lead the group in the Opening Prayer

Engagement Warm-Up:

Mary Weyandt began the meeting by asking “*What's bringing you here tonight and motivating you?*” Various committee members shared their thoughts and concerns. Discussion centered around concern regarding immigration activity in the Twin Cities, housing insecurity, supporting our neighbors, community, listening to each other, and to garner hope.

DISCUSSION

AGENDA

▪ **Crisis Response Resource Information Small Group follow-up:**

Mary H., Mary T., Kim, and Laurie met. The group reviewed the list of Crisis Resources. A QR code will be added to the document and will be linked to St. Pascal's website. It will be 1 page and put into a protector sheet and will be put on the Bathroom doors and in the kiosk.

▪ **We Care Campaign for March 7th-8th (Chris Malec)**

Fr. John suggested to use these donations to be given to Sacred Heart to help with rent support. They seem to be good with food as there are some schools, restaurants and businesses that have been helping with food collection and distribution. Committee agreed that Sacred Heart would be the only recipient for March.

▪ **Immigration Coalition: Prayer Vigil/Action/Formation**

Discussion to have a Rosary for the East Metro at St. Pascal's in March before the 4:30 Saturday Mass. Julie M., Mary W, Laurie and Fr. John will meet to discuss further. Kim indicated the dates of March 7th, 14th, and 21st.

▪ **Accola mission** - to welcome neighbors, cultivate community, and foster justice - was adopted directly from our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. This mission remains our compass. Everything we do at Accola grows from the Sisters' traditions of inclusion without exception and bold action for justice. Programs that empower neighbors to build stability, confidence, and connection - **Learning in Style School in Mpls** - Providing quality education in English, computers, and citizenship for adult immigrants. It's a block from where Alex Pretti was shot. **Sarah's – An oasis for women** - Offering a safe home, dignity, resources, and support for a diverse community of immigrant women healing from trauma.

Wisdom Ways- Center for Spirituality - Offering workshops, classes, and community gatherings that explore and promote the intersection of spirituality and the pursuit of social justice.

Ann invited all of us to a “Learn More” breakfast at St. Catherine’s April 21st 8:30-9:30,

▪ ISAI AH (Mary Tacheny gave a small synopsis of what this group does, Laurie was familiar with it as well). Mary asked if St. Pascal’s would like to be a member since individuals are not allowed to be members, must be part of an organization. Membership fee ~\$1000-3000 annually. Father requested Mary T. and Laurie D. to research this more, so that we don’t join a group that goes against Catholic teachings.

REPORTS

Donation Closet:

- January - Brittany’s Place (Julie Ludden & Mary Erickson) A lot of luggage came in which is good. Car was packed. Very grateful, most of the items asked for were donated.
- February - Listening House
- March – Food Share
- April – Fishes and Loaves

Beacon (Julie Moore):

Spoke briefly about the Beacon Convening event on February 20, 2026. A few parishioners from St Pascals attended at Hennepin United Methodist. It was a very positive meeting. Rent is Due meeting every month –The meeting from 2/4/2026 was also, positive – Due to the lawsuit, funding will continue through 2026, but assume it will be pulled 2027. The push will be to petition the State to step up and push through funding,

Immigration Coalition (Mary Weyandt):

The team met on Tuesday, February 3rd, reporting on a Community Sing/Prayer event (held on Monday, February 2nd) at an apartment complex near Ascension Parish in Minneapolis. There will be another prayer/sing event on Wednesday, February 11 in the neighborhood surrounding St. Albert the Great (see the attached flyer with parish endorsements, including St. Pascal Baylon). The next rosary event will be on Saturday, February 21 at Pax Christi in Eden Prairie, with the hope that St. Pascal can host a future event in the East Metro.

Care for Creation Team (Bruce & Sue Labno):

Summary of the Care for Creation Team action items:

- Review the potential for a speaker to talk on the food scrap program or some other topic that would be of interest to the parish.
- A potential project for the Team might be examining ways we can use our energy (both electric and natural gas) more effectively to help moderate home energy costs. This could be a future topic for a speaker.
- Team members are to prepare a list of environmentally responsible products they use at home. We will have a discussion on what was found next meeting.
- Further discuss if there is a theme for our activities in 2026.
- The Team is asked to suggest books that we (or the parish) might consider for reading.

- We all will look at what types of liturgies are out there and whether is something we can do for Lent or Earth Day 2026.
- The next Team meeting is Monday, February 9 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Bloodmobile (Margaret Malec): Scheduled for Date: Monday April 6, 2026

Not on Parish calendar, need to check on this – April 6th is Easter Monday and the Parish Office is closed.

OTHER:

Carol provided update on the incontinence products a parishioner wanted to donate.

Every inch of the RAV-4 was packed with products, everything was dropped off at Catholic Charities warehouse (3 carts) – they were very appreciative.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, March 5, 2026: Zoom

Thursday April 9th, 2026 in person at St. Pascal's

PRAYER FOR MARCH: Mary Tachney

MINUTES FOR MARCH: Carol DePouw

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS FOR MARCH: TBD

ISAIAH – Mary Tachney and Laurie Dimond