

St. Pascal Social Justice and Caring Committee Agenda MINUTES

**June 4, 2026 at 6:30 pm
In-Person at St. Pascal's**

Present:

Bruce Labno, Sue Labno, Father John Mitchell, Julie Ludden, Carol DePouw, Mary Weyandt, Laurie Diamond, Chris Igielski, Bill Dorgan, Chris Malec, Margaret Malec, Kim Roering

Sue Labno offered prayer

Reflection and Sharing/Debrief

Pope Leo recently stated that sport brings people together; what do you believe helps people to overcome differences?

- **National Night Out Update and Planning Meeting invitation**

We will have a NNO meeting via ZOOM on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. The NNO date is Tuesday, August, 4, 2026. St Pascal's application for NNO is filled out. We have confirmed that Chris and Leo Stadler will return as clowns and that we will receive a visit from The Free Book Buggie.

- **Lilly Grant Summer Retreat taking place at St. Catherine's on Saturday, August 1**

Kim distributed a flyer inviting members of St Pascal's to participate in "A Day for Contemplative Practice" retreat being held at St Catherine's University on Saturday, August 1, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., in the Rauenhorst Ballroom. Participants can attend either on-line or in-person. Those committee members interested in attending in-person should e-mail the group so we can try to sit together.

- **Think ahead to Faithful Citizenship and other possibilities for fall**

Father John handed out several pages offering a summary of themes from Catholic social teaching. A discussion ensued about the possibility of holding an educational event this fall on the topic of faithful citizenship in anticipation of the upcoming elections. The event would be centered on the themes of Catholic social teaching and how it can be applied to thoughtful voting. The group thought a workable format would be to hold a series of several in-person meetings, probably four, in the evening, with the first meeting being an overview of Catholic social teaching while the others focused on individual themes. There are short videos available on each theme that could be watched as a group and then discussed at individual tables. Members of the Social Justice and Caring committee would be needed to emcee this event and lead table talks. There was some discussion in the group about the possibility of live

streaming these meetings or offering a ZOOM option. There are several logistical issues that may prevent St Pascal's from being able to offer this option.

The group was wondering if the United States Council of Catholic Bishops had any recent publications on this theme that included some of Pope Leo's writings on the subject.

- **Finalize Ministry Fair on June 20-21 during Fellowship**

Kim handed out a copy of the flyer the Social Justice and Caring Committee used the last time it hosted Fellowship. The group felt that, with a little tweaking, the information in this flyer was still appropriate. We also wanted to use the half sheet Social Justice and Caring Interest Card we used at the last event. Several rectangular tables will be placed down the middle aisle of Brioschi Hall to display information on the various service opportunities in which the committee is involved. Members of the committee volunteered to be at the tables to talk with interested parishioners about the opportunities.

Julie volunteered to share about our work with Progressive Baptist Fishes & Loaves program.

The Labnos volunteered to share about the Care for Creation committee activities.

Chris Igielski volunteered to talk about Beacon activities.

Margaret volunteered to represent the Red Cross blood drives.

Mary Weyandt will represent the Merrick/St Pascal's food distribution collaboration (along with other "Merrick Monday" volunteers) and will check in with Julie Ludden about providing information about food scarcity.

Members of the committee should gather from 3:00 - 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 20, 2026, to help prepare the room.

- **Service Opportunity**

Mary brought a service opportunity to the group. The Accola group, one of the recipients of our June We Care Collection, mentioned that there is a senior immigrant woman in need of transportation to and from doctor appointments due to her recent cancer diagnosis. Her literacy in English is low so she may also need help with understanding things said by the doctors, filling out form, etc. Father John suggested that Mary give this information to Barb Uschold Anderson and himself so that they can formulate some type of response.

● Bill Dorgan - Sex Trafficking Handout - Draft

Bill handed out a draft of the document concerning sex trafficking the committee used in 2018 when the Superbowl was held in the Twin Cities. He feels this issue is still relevant and should be brought to the parish's attention again. St Pascal's already supports Brittany's Place which helps women moving out of the sex trafficking trade.

The meeting on faithful citizenship we are planning for this autumn could incorporate this theme as it relates to Catholic social teaching. It is yet to be determined how strong a stance St Pascal's would take on this subject or any other that is relevant in the current political climate. The parish could promote positions advocated by Archbishop Hebda or the United States Council of Catholic Bishops.

REPORTS

Progressive Baptist (Julie Ludden): Progressive Baptist is breaking ground this coming Sunday, June 7, on a new facility on its campus, which will include a dedicated space for its food shelf and distribution. The volunteers are still working out how they will best use the new space.

Care for Creation (Labnos): The next meeting for the care for creation team in Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

Bloodmobile (Margaret Malec): The next blood drive will be held at St. Pascal's on Monday, July 6, 2026, from 1:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Merrick: Again provided food to 60 households. New signage allowed for visibility at Third & White Bear, Third & Flandrau, and the turn-in at the middle of the block.

Donation Closet:

- May - Listening House
- June - Brittany's Place
- July – Currently slated for Merrick Community Center Backpack Drive

Beacon: Julie Moore attended the Beacon Leadership Assembly on Thursday, June 4 and will provide information at a future SJCC meeting.

Twin Cities Catholics for Immigrant Justice: The next meeting is Tuesday, June 9th at 1 pm via Teams. Email Mary W for a link if interested in attending.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, July 2nd at St. Pascal's

PRAYER FOR JULY: Chris Igielski

MINUTES FOR JULY: Laurie Diamond

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Malec