Tri-parish Human Concerns Committee Minutes
Tuesday, September 1, 2026
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. St. Joseph, Lyons

In attendance: Jennifer Robson, Fr. Timothy Wysocki, Dee Baumeister, Julie Koenen, Sue Novasic,Mary LaBadie, Ellen Voslar, Mary Ann Johnson, Terri Rach, Bob Schiltz, Tom Lebak, Elaine Phelps, Joyce Clapp, Paul Grivitz (sp?)
Not present, reporting: Holly Reesman, Eileen Gabriel, Mary Brawley
Not present, not reporting: Rita VanSchyndel, Patty Ebbers, Kathy Rivest

Jennifer called the meeting to order at 6:31PM. Fr. Timothy followed with an opening prayer. Brief introductions were shared.

Pastoral Council Report: Written report submitted by Holly Reesman, Tri-Parish Council Liaison. This report provides updates in various areas of parish life that are shared from the liaisons to other commissions at the pastoral councils. This included updates in areas of parish finances, faith formation, BCS, and other events on the parish calendar.

Sub-Committee Reports

- Outreach:
  - SM/SC: Written report submitted from Eileen Gabriel: In early August the Outreach committee selected St. Mary Parish in Menasha, WI as the State recipient for last weekend's Outreach collection. They will receive 1/4th of the two parish totals collected to support families affected by the tornado that went through their community in late July.Individual donations can still be sent to St.Mary rectory with the designation for Outreach. Another option is to send donations directly to St. Mary Parish in Menasha and designate that it is part of the St. Mary/St. Charles Burlington donation. Next meeting is November 2nd in Heim Hall at 6pm. All of the current committee members are from St. Mary parish. Would welcome any interested St. Charles member to join our two parish committee.
  - SJ: No fifth Sunday collection. They determine their donations as a group.
  - An extensive discussion was held regarding the purpose and role of the Outreach Committee and the individuals, organizations, and needs it is intended to serve. The committee discussed how requests for assistance or donations are identified and evaluated, how decisions are made regarding the distribution of funds, and whether established guidelines or criteria currently exist to help guide those decisions.
- Pro-Life
  - SM: Report provided by Sue Novasic. The committee would like to encourage greater participation in the Pro-Life ministry and explore additional ways to increase awareness throughout the parishes.
  - **40 Days for Life** will run September 23 through November 1. Participants will travel to an abortion facility in Milwaukee on Fridays following the 8:30 a.m. Mass to stand and pray.
  - A new Pro-Life banner was purchased using proceeds from the annual Rose Sale. Discussion was held regarding ways to streamline the Rose Sale and expand the effort to include the St. Charles congregation in future years. The Knights of Columbus offered to assist with rose sales at St. Charles.
  - It was decided that a small group will meet separately to discuss the Rose Sale process and develop recommendations, which will be presented at the February Human Concerns Committee meeting.

- Knights of Columbus (SM and SC):
  - Burlington Council
    - Next meeting is in September.
    - Two councils do work together and cooperate on many things
    - Helping purchase new microscopes for BCS Science department.

- Monsignor Heim Council
  - The two KC councils (14 Knights) took care of the Tri-Parish Mass. They do their best to work together for large events.
  - Recent Pancake Breakfast served over 200 people. It is not a fundraiser, just an event. They make enough to cover the expenses.
  - October will be the Baby Bottle campaign which will raise money for Life Choices
  - November will be the Food Drives.
  - Regularly support Leo Puntillo, part of St. Paul's Outreach. Leo reported that 80 people were Confirmed through the University of Cincinnati campus ministry through the OCIA last year.
  - RSVP to sponsor seminarians.

- Love, Inc. Meal Program: No Report

- Pastoral Care
  - Helping Hands (SC): Report provided by Mary LaBadie. Helping Hands currently has a committee of 17 members and primarily serves St. Charles parishioners age 80 and older. Many of those served have little or no family support, and there are currently very few couples participating.
    - A newsletter is mailed approximately every 6–8 weeks. The committee also plans meals, activities, and themed social gatherings. The most recent social, celebrating the 250th Anniversary, was held in Andre Hall.
    - Discussion was held regarding the possibility of coordinating with the St. Mary and St. Joseph committees to expand similar outreach to their parishioners. The possibility of the St. Charles Helping Hands Committee mentoring or sharing its established practices with the other parishes was also discussed.
    - Suggestion for a small group to further discuss how each parish can support their senior parishioners.
  - Caring Connections (SM): Patty Ebbers has stepped down as chairperson. As of now, no one has stepped in to take her place. The group may not be able to continue unless we have a chair.
  - Our Harmony Club (SJ): Meets at SJ every Wednesday from 9AM to 3:30PM. The program provides respite care for older adults, in order to give their caregivers a break. The care is for people with dementia, Parkinson's or any condition where they can't usually be left alone. Charge $48 per day and provide a hot meal and entertainment. A request was made to encourage more volunteers.
  - Home and Hospital communion: Discussion was held regarding the current process for bringing Holy Communion to parishioners who are homebound or hospitalized. Questions were raised regarding who is currently trained and authorized to serve in this ministry, who has parish pyxes, and whether everyone currently bringing Communion has received the appropriate training. The committee also discussed how pyxes are distributed, tracked, and returned when someone is no longer serving in the ministry, as well as how any outstanding pyxes might be recovered. The need for future training or refresher sessions for current and prospective ministers was also discussed.

- St. Vincent de Paul: Written report submitted by Mary Brawley.

- Prayer Network: Following practice of annual reset of list at Easter. Since then, 53 new prayer requests. Services the Tri-Parish.

- Catholic Teaching on Social Issues: No report

- Prison Ministry: Report from Mary Ann Johnson: Visits the women's prison in Union Grove one time per month with Sister Susan. Serve 3-10 women each meeting. They meet in the Chapel area and conduct a Communion Service. A priest visits two Thursdays a month for Confession and Mass.

- CCHS Faith in Action Team (FIAT): No Report.

Old Business:

- Contact lists were distributed and reviewed. Several updates provided.

New Business:

- Sue Novasic presented information on the Women in Christ Conference that will be held November 21st at the Brookfield Conference Center. Information will be put in the Bulletin and posters hung.

Jennifer concluded in prayer and meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Next Meeting: November 3, 2026, 6:30PM