

Tri-parish Human Concerns Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 4, 2025 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. St. Joseph, Lyons

Minutes taken and submitted by Jacki Scholze

Attendance: Eileen Gabriel, Sue Novasic, Julie Koenen, Dee Baumeister, Terri Ferris, Jennifer Robson, Joyce Clapp, Rita VanSchyndel, Holly Reesman, Maddy Miller (Tri-Parish Pastoral Council), Fr. Ryan Ackmann, and Jacki Scholze
The meeting began with prayer.

Old Business

- Brief review of October minutes.

New Business:

- Following a short discussion regarding meeting dates for 2025, consensus was reached to continue to meet at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the months of February, June, and October. Also, a decision was reached to always hold these meetings at the St. Joseph Center in Lyons. Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 3, 2025. The fall meeting will take place on October 7. (June 3rd will be Jacki Scholze's last meeting before moving.)
- Fr. Ryan has been very helpful in giving us information to learn more about the Catholic Social Teaching mission. Short videos are available. Discussion centered on how to share this information with tri-parish membership. A decision was reached to do so during Lent encouraging membership to "enrich their Lenten journey" by viewing the videos. Information on how to do so will be shared via announcements and in the bulletin using the tri-parish website, facebook, and possibly QR codes. Jacki Scholze and Fr. Ryan will enlist help of office staff to assist with the technology.
- A concern was brought to the committee regarding the need for more volunteers to assist with home visits and communion distribution to shut-ins. While we encourage family members to take communion to their family members unable to attend church, those already involved in this pastoral care ministry at all three parishes need others to assist. Training is provided by Fr. Ryan. It was decided that we will try to spotlight this need through pulpit pleas upon approval from Fr. Jim.
- Each parish plans a Lenten project. Please be sure to place information on your causes in the bulletin to be sure the word reaches membership at all three parishes.
- Jacki Scholze invited the group to consider attending the Lenten Luncheon on April 3 in order to support the work of Catholic Charities of the Milwaukee Archdiocese. The "Helping Hands" of St. Charles have been nominated for and will be receiving an award for their pastoral care ministry at this year's luncheon.

Committee Reports:

Outreach – Julie Koenen reported St. Joseph's Outreach would be meeting mid-February, Eileen Gabriel reported St. Mary's Outreach meets on March 3, and Jacki Scholze will attend that meeting representing St. Charles. Vetting of agencies for the coming year is the main topic of the March 3 meeting.

Pro-Life – Sue Novasic reported that "Sanctity of Life" was held indoors on January 19. Also please promote "40 Day for Life" beginning on Ash Wednesday. Encourage members to join our "Peaceful Prayer Warriors" after mass on Fridays to go to the abortion clinic in Milwaukee.

TLC Meal Program not active at this time

Love, Inc. Meal Program – Rita Van Schyndel reported that meals at Love continue every 2nd Wednesday. The four teams of volunteers include religious education students, middle and high school students, first communion students, and some youth service organizations and their families. The meals are still needed in the community. Please contact Rita if you know of someone who would like to become part of this ministry. Rita also reported on the success of the Souper Bowl Luncheon with donations going to The TreeHouse of Walworth County.

Pastoral Care - Visits to those living in Francis Meadows were discussed.

St. Vincent de Paul – no report submitted

Prayer Network – Sue Novasic has a huge task of informing the prayer network individuals learn of more than 300 listed prayer requests. She asked for suggestions on how long prayer requests should remain on the list. Fr. Ryan suggested refreshing and updating the list on Easter Sunday.

Catholic Teaching on Social Issues – addressed in the new business portion of the meeting.

Prison Ministry – MaryAnn Johnson reported she is working with some deacons, a seminarian, and the chaplan at Ellsworth in Union Grove on Thursdays to provide the Gospel and readings to small groups of women. Each team of two is under strict guidelines in order to provide this ministry.

Closing prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meetings: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at St. Joseph, Lyons 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at St. Joseph, Lyons 6:30-7:30 p.m.