MEMORANDUM

TO: Parish Council

FROM: Timothy Boller

DATE: July 8, 2025

RE: Social Justice Committee Meeting

The Social Justice Committee met on Monday, July 7, 2025. Present were Tim Boller, Christine Guevara, Cathy Hartz, Cindy (Outreach Director) (by telephone), and two new members: Korey Rider and Lara Plathe.

Cindy reported on the Matthew 25 Outreach Ministry. The food pantry served 57 households in May. The pantry served 58 households in June. Although the numbers were somewhat higher, the ministry is still not seeing the anticipated increase in the number of people looking for help due to the various changes in the social benefit programs.

Cindy also reported that she has completed the bulletin announcement discussing the Matthew 25 Outreach Ministry. It will be inserted into the next available bulletin. Hopefully, the information will help recruit new volunteers and increase donations to this valuable ministry.

Cathy Hartz reported that Community Meals served 131 meals at the Community Meals on May 13, 2025. The menu was pulled pork sandwiches, vegetable salad, pork and beans, potato chips, pears, and a variety of desserts. She also reported that Community Meals served 98 persons on June 10, 2025. The menu was grilled hot dogs, vegetable salad, green beans, potato chips, peaches and a variety of desserts. Although the numbers were down in June, Cathy anticipates that more people will be attending Community Meals in the future. St. Patrick continues to serve the Community Meal on the second Tuesday of each month from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls.

Tim Boller reported that he has been contacted by Tim Kneeland who is one of the chairpersons for the Cedar Valley Bridges Over Poverty Program. The Social Justice Committee has supported this program in the past. The program serves persons in poverty in the Cedar Valley by providing a comprehensive educational process to assist them in getting out of their poverty. The program is looking for new volunteers and funding. Mr. Kneeland will speak to the Social Justice Committee at the next available meeting.

Tim Boller then spoke about the Social Action Calendar. The calendar is operated by longtime Social Justice advocate Dave Cushing. The calendar providers information regarding various social justice events and activities in the Archdiocese. Anyone can access the calendar for information by contacting Dave at d.cushing@dbqarch.org.

Cathy Hartz then took the new members, as well as the regular Committee members, on a tour of the Matthew 25 food pantry and the Outreach Ministry office.

The next Social Justice Committee meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at the Parish Annex conference room. Tim Boller will invite Tim Kneeland to speak about the Bridges Over Poverty program at this meeting.