

Approved
Social Justice Committee Minutes
August 3, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Isidore Catholic Center. We opened with a prayer for Social Justice by Mother Teresa.

Members Present: Annette Uker, Carol Mullenbach, Margaret Smolik, Julie Neeley, and Jo Popp

Old Business:

- The minutes of the June 1, 2015 meeting were read & corrected. Jo made a motion to approve them as corrected and Margaret seconded the motion. All were in favor. They will be submitted to Jo Popp and Annette Uker who will make sure they are forwarded for publication.
- Annette read two thank you notes from Room for Me. The collection will make a difference in young people's lives in our community. See more info at RoomForMe.org
- Annette also shared a thank you note from Sr. Diana and Magnificat School for the contribution towards the well that will harvest rainwater for their use.
- Annette Uker gave us a Pastoral Minister's Report. We went over the 2nd Collections. We discussed both past and upcoming collections. We have the back to school collection boxes set up in the backs of church all of July and will leave them until the middle of August. Margaret and Jo will get together this next week and purchase clothing items with part of the collection. Carol will use the remainder of the funds to go towards school supplies that were not collected in the boxes and will deliver all items to the St. Ansgar and Osage Elementary schools before the end of August.
- The August collection was changed to go to the Red Lake Indian Reservation. Additional collection boxes were set up at the back of church for diapers, diaper wipes, canned/non-perishable foods/vitamins. Monetary collection was \$1,443. Marilyn and Marvin Rice will take the collections with them to Northern Minnesota for their use.
- Carol looked into the pop tabs. Both Osage and Stacyville Fire Departments collect pop tabs for the University of Iowa's Burn Unit. We will put collection containers in the back of both churches. The St. Ansgar Fire Dept. has not yet responded back.
- Collection containers were also made for both churches for the collection of hard plastic lids for the "The Caps of Love". Annette contacted the organization's leader. She said mailing the lids has been an issue for some parishes because it is expensive, but they usually found funding from some place when asked. We will go ahead with the collections and see how they go. If there's an overwhelming amount, we may have to budget next year for more postage or ask another group to help monetarily for this expense.
- Jo also mentioned that since we were no longer collecting medicine bottles for Steve Weis, the UCC is collecting them for countries overseas who are in desperate need of them if someone has more to give.
- Annette also reported that "Common Hope" has requested more funds.

- Can Redemption for Youth...so far Osage has collected \$26.75.
- September collection: Prayers for the 40 Hours of Life
- October collection will be for the Mitchell County CROP Walk
- November collection will be for the Frances Lauer Youth Center (Monetary only)
- December – Mitchell County Food Bank

- Future – Spring collection (?) will be for the Baby Pantry at the St. Joseph Parish Center in Mason City. We will check prior to that for a list of most needed items. Contact # is 641-423-1464.

- Julie contacted Sister Emily Divine to see if she would be interested in speaking to both congregations regarding Human Trafficking. She will be here to speak the evening of Tuesday, October 6th at 7:00 p.m. Annette will look into seeing if we can line up the KC Hall in Osage (handicap accessible. Annette will see that the equipment Sister needs will be at the KC Hall (DVD and materials to be copied off). All members of the Social Justice Committee will bring a pan of bars to share. Carol will bring coffee, coffee cups, juice, juice glasses, small paper plates, forks and napkins. Sister will provide Annette with a write up for the bulletin. Annette will also share with the other churches in Osage and New Haven as well as the Press News. If the Press News requires payment for an “ad”, a motion was made by Carol to provide the funds needed for advertising. It was seconded by Julie and all other agreed. Said motion also approved to pay Sister Emily for her mileage 126 miles $2 \times .575 = \$144.90 + \55.10 (meals for her and travel companion) = total of \$200.
New Business:
- Margaret will contact Julie Marley about coming to the next meeting (January) to discuss Prison Ministries.
- Annette shared more with us about ‘Community Meals’. These meals are to be held at the end of the month. The churches are given the food by the food banks to prepare. They are told what to expect several days prior to the food being delivered for the meals. Churches only need to prepare and serve the food. Annette said that 3 local churches have committed to have preparing these community meals We will discuss more at our January meeting.
- Mitchell Co. Mobile Food Pantry ~ also at month end ~ 4th Tuesday (for same reasons). Need volunteers for September 22 drop off. This is held at the Alliance Church and all leftover food is taken to the Mitchell Co. Food Bank. Volunteers are needed from 4:30 to 7:30 pm.

Financial report: Margaret Smolik reported there have been no changes to our account since the last report was given. Account is at \$812.44.

The meeting closed with a beautiful Social Justice Prayer read by Julie Neeley.

Next Meeting will be held at the St. Isidore Catholic Center on Monday evening, January 4 at 6:30 p.m. (A short meeting may be held after Sister Emily’s presentation if needed and there is time.)

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Mullenbach, Secretary