

St. Sebastian/St. Vincent Social Justice Ministry...and Justice for All  
Minutes for April 17, 2016

Present: Carolyn Varner, Jan Pierson, Jack Pierson, Larry Furman, Donna Marie Kominsky, Greg Sain, Mary Yanko, Annie Burris

Donna Marie led the group in prayer.

There were comments regarding the message of the prayer and its challenges. We are defined by God's love that reflects a better version of ourselves. Greg spoke to drawing on a higher goodness in worrisome times; everyone agreed it is important to be merciful to ourselves. People on the margin are often not sure of God's love.

Minutes: Were accepted with the comment of "admirable job".

General Session:

Papal Bull: Carolyn guided the discussion from Rita's notes.

This document continues to provide wisdom for our everyday lives especially that mercy should always be present.

Life is a pilgrimage and we are the pilgrims, the key is to judge not, condemn not and forgive.

The group shared stories and situations about the difficulty of not judging others in complicated situations and the challenge of the Papal Bull to react in a Christian way. Prayer is a powerful ally in choosing courageous options to act with love and mercy.

We must open our hearts to those on the fringe. Love is what changes the world, and we must always be open to love. It is important to include those who carry guilt and shame and have difficulty in accepting this Love. It is critical to remember all are worthy of God's love. We are called to be cheerful in executing acts of mercy.

Lent is a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy and forgiveness. Good confessors reflect the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands. We must be part of the process on giving and receiving mercy.

Mercy searches out sinners and offers salvation; pardon is a fundamental aspect of Jesus' mission. Mercy is not opposed to justice but is God's way to reach out to the sinner.

Paragraph 19 calls for a conversion of those involved in corruption and criminal activities. Annie shared stories of many of her student's struggles and the importance of consistent parenting. This is important for all economic levels and at all ages.

Donna Marie spoke to 'faith as a gift' and stated that theologically every person has within them the spark of God. Faith in God is the basis of faith not a denomination.

The group discussed the opportunity to let us allow God to surprise us. Again the group marveled at the wisdom that is contained in this document.

USCCB:

Carolyn provided a link for "Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration and Movement of Peoples". This will be the topic for the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/immigration/catholic-teaching-on-immigration-and-the-movement-of-peoples.cfm>

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Faith Lodge options for the fall:

- Discussion focused around suggestions that may be appropriate before the November election. They included studying the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching along the lines of forming consciousness for faithful citizenship.
- Another topic would be a discussion of "Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration and Movement of Peoples" from the USCCB
- There was discussion regarding the venue of Forest Lodge and its difficulties with providing a safe, welcoming place especially during the winter Lenten Series. Since it is City property a discussion with the council person may be warranted.
- The Joy of Love is available on Amazon.

Calendar:

Simone Campbell SSS will present a workshop at Villa Maria April 22-23; Carolyn encouraged the group to attend.

Announcements:

- The First Friday speaker on May 13<sup>th</sup> will be Brad Maikovsky, Assoc. Professor of Comparative Theology at Notre Dame: "Muslim-Christian Differences and Why it Matters.
- The next meeting will be on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. Tshcantz's will provide the prayer and treat.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35

Respectfully Submitted  
Mary Yanko