

**Meeting Minutes**  
**St. Sebastian/St. Vincent Social Justice Ministry**  
**January 17, 2016**

**Members Present:** Annie Burris, Larry Furman, Mary Beth Furman, DonnaMarie Kaminsky, Jack Pierson, Jan Pierson, Bernie Rochford, Rita Rochford, Greg Sain, Dave Tschantz, Mary Tschantz, Carolyn Varner, Mary Yanko, Rob Yanko

**Opening Prayer:** Carolyn

Following a delicious pot-luck provided by all in attendance, **Minutes** from the November meeting were approved by acclamation, and will be placed on file.

**General Session:** Carolyn led the discussion as we began our study of Pope Francis' "Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy" Sections 1-16. In the introduction Pope Francis reminds us that Jesus Christ is the face of the father's mercy...recalling the words of St. John XXIII opening the 2d Vatican Council...'May the year be 'steeped in mercy.' God's nature is described in the Old Testament as kind, patient, and merciful. The mercy of God is 'visceral' like a parent's love for a child. Discussion confirmed that that's what church needs to be – take us as we are, with all our imperfections. We need support and understanding, not judgment.

Discussion ensued about Fr. McDonough and what he meant to us as a pastor and friend, and the words of the homilist at his funeral, highlighting his inclusiveness and collaborative ministry, and his embrace of all that Vatican II meant for our church. The gospel of John tells us that God is love. Jesus' ministry was with the marginalized. Everything about Jesus' life speaks of mercy. Pope Francis seems to be trying to re-focus the church on this fundamental work of the church. We are called to show mercy, because mercy has first been shown to us!

Next month Greg will handle discussion of paragraphs 9-16. In the Tschantz' absence, Rita will take Minutes in February.

**Lenten Series:** The plan is to present a 3-part series including "The Corporal Works of Mercy" February 18 with Fr. Kraker, Rita will confirm; "The Spiritual Works of Mercy" will be facilitated by DonnaMarie on Feb. 25; and "Confession as an Act of Mercy" March 3. All sessions will be on Thursdays at 7PM at Faith Lodge. Carolyn will share information with St V and St. Bernard, Rita and Bernie will be contact for any questions or more information at St. Vincent.

Our group's **2016 Study** (following the completion of "Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy" will be "**Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration and the Movement of Peoples**" a document from the USCCB 2016.

**Announcements:**

1. First Friday @ Tangier Restaurant Feb 5- Sister Rita Mary Harwood, SND  
"Putting a Face to the Struggle of Undocumented Immigrants"
2. St. Hilary/Faith Lutheran Lenten series-Wednesdays, Feb 17-March 9 - 7-8:45PM.

“But I’m Not a Racist”-See attached sheet for details

3. St. Paul Series-Sundays Jan 10-Feb 14 - 9:30-10:30AM“ On Fire for Water”- See attached sheet for details

**Next Meeting:** February 21, 2016-Byrider 3 @10AM

**Remaining 2016 Meetings:**

February 21   March 20   April 17   May 22   August 21   Sept. 18   Oct. 16   Nov. 20