

Meeting Minutes
St. Sebastian/St. Vincent Social Justice Ministry
Sunday, May 17, 2015

Members Present: Annie Burris, Larry Furman, Jack Pierson, Jan Pierson, Rita Rochford, Greg Sain, Harry Skeen, Linda Skeen, Dave Tschantz, Mary Tschantz, Carolyn Varner, Mary Yanko

Prayer: Mary Yanko read the opening prayer.

Minutes of the April meeting were distributed by email and approved to be placed on file.

General Session: We continued general discussion of the concepts of Charity v. Justice in connection with the USCCB document “Organizing a Parish Social Ministry Coordination Team” and the document “Communities of Salt and Light” in the context of the challenges in our parishes.

Greg reported a conversation with Fr. Kovacina in which Fr K suggested the language we use may be a barrier to us promoting ourselves. Jack reminded us that the message of Christianity is meant to cause discomfort. Dave indicated we need to approach the discussion differently; it needs to be a collaborative effort. Carolyn stated that most parishioners simply don’t understand the difference between charity and justice.

Rita indicated she would be interested in presenting information to Fr O’Connor at St V on the work/study topics of the Social Justice ministry as well as potential homily topics. Mary Y reminded us of the resource that Candy Bates is, as a conduit to Fr V and Parish Council.

Linda and Larry reported that neither of them had been selected for Parish Council, and that they did not know who the new representatives are.

Discussion continued after Carolyn, Greg, and Larry had to leave the meeting. Members felt since we weren’t scheduled to meet again until August, that a small group could be convened (all members would be invited) to consider recommendations to Fr Valencheck about social issues that would be good homily topics, like Fr Pfeiffer’s homily on the death penalty delivered on Divine Mercy Sunday. It is our hope that when the pope’s new encyclical on the environment is ready, it will be a vehicle that the parish can embrace.

Ongoing Projects:

1. Catholic Commission Update - Workshop on Sacraments and Social Mission next Thursday at St Hilary 6-8:30PM, all are invited. Dinner included.
2. Faith Lodge series – nothing scheduled over the summer.

Announcements:

1. Carolyn shared information from a recent workshop “Bridging the Gap” on the Earned Income Tax credit. It should be refundable or it doesn’t really help.
2. First Friday program June 5 @ Quaker Station: Susan McGurgan, DMin, Prof of Homiletics, The Atheneum of Ohio, Cincinnati

Next Meeting: Sunday, Aug. 16, 10AM @ St. Sebastian Byrider Hall.

Prayer/Treat:

Discussion Leader:

Mark your calendar for remaining 2015 meetings: Aug 16, Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15.