

Meeting Minutes  
St. Sebastian/St. Vincent Social Justice Ministry  
Sunday, October 18, 2015

Members Present: Annie Burris, Larry Furman, Rita Rochford, Greg Sain, Dave Tschantz, Mary Tschantz, Carolyn Varner, Mary Yanko    Guest: Mary Gordon

Prayer: Mary Y read the opening prayer, St. Francis of Assisi's *Canticle of the Creatures*

General Session:

The discussion of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* continued, with Mary Yanko leading discussion of Chapters 3 and 4, from handouts prepared by Carolyn. Larry Furman will lead discussion covering the same material this Thursday night at Faith Lodge. The discussion was grounded by Pope Benedict's words "The world is not something indifferent, raw material to be utilized simply as we see fit. Rather, it is part of God's good plan." Chapter 3 examined The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis, and Chapter 4 Integral Ecology. Constructive comments ensued, acknowledging that Pope Francis' work is built on the popes before him, starting with Paul VI.

Minutes: Greg noted a correction in the first item under General Session, should read "Greg Sain indicated the Catholic Commission was reviewing the economic impact of the sewer project on the poor." With that correction, the Sept Minutes will be placed on file.

Ongoing Projects:

1. Catholic Commission Report:

Mary T and Greg reported that the annual Commission dinner, to be held Friday, Dec 4 at 6pm at St Matthew Church Hall is the current focus. Reservations can be made online via Eventbrite <http://ccdocle.org/events/37th-annual-bishop-william-m-cosgrove-justice-dinner-and-silent-auction>; <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/37th-annual-bishop-cosgrove-justice-dinner-silent-auction-tickets-18351420593> or by calling or emailing Diane Zbasnik at the commission: 330-535-2787 –or- [dzbasnik@ccdocle.org](mailto:dzbasnik@ccdocle.org) Let Diane know you'd like to be seated with St Seb group. Each parish will be invited to donate an item for the silent auction. Greg has received permission from Fr V and Adam Keeler, headmaster of the Arts & Culture Institute to donate a gift certificate for courses offered. In addition, The Social Justice Ministry will donate a basket of 'environmentally friendly' cleaning products. All members present donated \$5 towards the basket, Mary T will put it together.

Mary shared voting information from the Ohio Catholic Conference (of Bishops) and forwarded the same to bulletin editors at St V and St Seb. The Bishops **support** Issue 1, a legislatively initiated redistricting amendment creating a bipartisan process for drawing legislative districts. The Bishops also **support** Issue 2, a legislatively initiated anti-monopoly amendment prohibiting any petitioner from placing in the Ohio Constitution provisions that provide exclusive personal economic benefits. Issue 3 is a voter-initiated marijuana amendment that legalizes marijuana for medical and personal use in Ohio. The Bishops of Ohio are **opposed** to Issue 3.

Carolyn will work on an end of year report for our ministry, detailing what we have accomplished in the parish and community this year. This will be shared with our pastor, parish council rep, Cathy Sivec, and Catholic Commission, who may be able to use the information in future grant applications.

2. St. Vincent Parish is undergoing Stewardship renewal. Rita represented our ministry at the recent fair after all Masses. Carolyn attended a follow-up meeting. St V parishioners will have the opportunity to sign up to participate in different ministries. Carolyn will be notified if anyone responds, and we will invite them to future meetings. We could consider meeting at St V if we get more members. We will work on our tri-fold display, informational materials, (fair trade chocolates) etc., expecting this will be an annual event.
3. Encyclical, chapters 5-6: Annie will lead discussion Nov15; Rita will lead discussion at Faith Lodge the following Thursday, Nov 19.
4. For Lenten series in 2016 (to be held Thursdays at Faith Lodge) Carolyn suggested a program built on the *Bull of Indiction of Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy...* Week 1 focusing on the Corporal Works of Mercy; Week 2 the Spiritual Works of Mercy; Week 3 Confession as Mercy. Mary Y will work with Carolyn on the plan for the series. Here is the link: [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/papa-francesco\\_bolla\\_20150411\\_misericordiae-vultus.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html) This will be what we discuss next, in order to prepare for Lenten program. All were enthusiastic about the concept. Larry explained that since some sins are reserved to the bishop to forgive, there is a movement to make the act of confession a little more local. Sunday after Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. We talked about following up the Lenten series with an action on the death penalty, encouraging our priests to preach on the issue that Sunday, then have tables set up in the vestibule to share information, and allow folks to sign petitions. There is pending legislation in Ohio, for example, to exclude those with mental illness from execution.

#### Announcements:

1. Rita mentioned former AZ congresswoman Gabby Gifford and her husband astronaut Mark Kelly will speak at EJ Thomas this Wed, Oct 21.
2. All are invited to program at Faith Lutheran, with St. Hilary Wed Oct 28 from 7-8:30. It is a continuation of their Lenten program "Who Is My Neighbor" specifically dialogue with members of the Muslim community.
3. Carolyn Woo, president of Catholic Relief Services will be the presenter at First Friday Nov 13 at Quaker Station.

Next Meeting: Sunday, November 15, 10AM @ St. Sebastian Byrider Hall. Final Discussion Session for encyclical *Laudato Si*. Our regular meeting will follow general session, open to all parishioners.

Prayer/Treat: Mary T      Discussion Leader: Annie

Mark your calendar for planning meeting for 2016: **January 17, 2016** at Carolyn's home. More info to follow.      Minutes prepared by Mary Tschantz