

Meeting Minutes
St. Sebastian/St. Vincent/St. Bernard Social Justice Ministry
Sunday, October 16, 2016

Members Present: Larry Furman, Rita Rochford, Greg Sain, Dave Tschantz, Mary Tschantz, Carolyn Varner, Mary Yanko met at 10AM at St. Sebastian Byrider Hall, Room 2. The group welcomed new member Lorrie Haddox, from St. Bernard.

Prayer: Greg read a 'prayer for wisdom'.

General Session: Carolyn continued the discussion on the bishops' document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* in anticipation of the upcoming election. Points made by members include that our focus in the country should be fundamental culture of respect and that we need leaders to create that climate. Members need to use multiple news sources, and try to get to the bottom of issues. Jane Mayer's book *Dark Money* was recommended as it describes a machine of misinformation with a long-term agenda. We really need to dig deep.

After the election, we must continue to raise the issues and promote a culture of life. People in today's society are often treated as disposable; folks are treated as something rather than someone. Catholic social teaching should be our lens when looking at issues and candidates. Beware of issues that are just used as tools, especially on issues that are divisive. We truly need a consistent ethic of life. J.D. Vance's book *Hillbilly Elegy* is another book recommended to give us a better understanding of the perspective of people who disagree about this election because their lived experience is different from ours.

In paragraph 60 and the conclusion of the document, St. John Paul II reminds us charity and justice are at the core of our Catholic Tradition. We need a renewed kind of politics in our pursuit of the common good. We should pursue policies that reflect the social teaching of our church.

Minutes: The August Minutes were acknowledged, and will be placed on file.

Reports:

1. Catholic Commission: Greg reported on mtg in Sept; Mary referred to Diane's email requesting a variety of help for the annual dinner.
2. Voter Registration – 14 folks in 3 parishes were registered during the weekend of September 17-18. Carolyn delivered completed forms to the Board of Elections.
3. Larry Furman and Carolyn and Larry Varner attended the St. Sebastian parish meeting regarding the Julie Billiart School of St. Sebastian Parish a new initiative for kids in grades K-8 with learning disabilities, who need IEPs. The original school was founded by ND nuns in Lyndhurst. The former Christ United Methodist Church bordering Schneider Park was purchased by diocese for this

- purpose; there will be no sharing of finances, but children will be supported in the parish for sacramental preparation, etc.
4. Carolyn noted that as of Nov 1, a new website will be launched called CatholicWomenPreach.org “offering the church a gift it deserves...” Several members of the Dominican Sisters of Peace are on the advisory board.
 5. Rita reported that at St V pastor Fr. Norm has convened a parish meeting regarding the direction of the parish facilitated by Rick Krivanka. An interest in community outreach was discerned; follow up meeting will occur. Fr Norm will continue to be very supportive of our SJ ministry.
 6. November SJ meeting will be held at Faith Lodge, a program sequel to Climate Change and will be advertised in all 3 parishes.

Calendar:

1. Friday, Nov 4– First Friday Club – 11:30am-1pm @ Tangier – Anthony Alexander, former First Energy CEO
2. Friday, December 2 – Catholic Commission annual dinner Dec 2 at St. Matthew

Next Meeting: **Sunday, November 20, 2016** 10am @ Faith Lodge

Prayer/Treat:

Minutes prepared by Mary Tschantz