

## Minutes ~ Social Justice Committee Meeting

April 7, 2011

**Present:** Ariel Caride, Margie Hake, Marcia Hartmann, Richard Hartmann, Bob Loechler, Judy O'Fallon (Chair), John Orbeck, Mary Margaret Yaeger (Staff)

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**Opening Prayer:** Reflection on last Sunday's Gospel. It was a very rich reflection.

**Minutes of March Meeting:** Approved with minor changes.

### **Current Topics:**

- **Development of a Parish Social Justice Education Program:** Someone in the parish offered to sponsor a quality speaker. There was a discussion about how to fund the speakers and how to put it in a larger framework. The invitation could be citywide. Do we want to invite one speaker, or make it a series of speakers? Fr. Massingale was mentioned as a possible speaker. Many other names were suggested. Bob Loechler will ask Todd Graff, Director of the Office of Ministry Formation for the Diocese of Winona, for suggestions.  
Which day could be more appropriate was also discussed. Wednesday was suggested to make it a part of Faith Formation, but a decision was not made.  
Regarding financing it was suggested that grant money could be available.
- **Parish Advocacy:** There is not enough interest in the parish at the moment to develop a program.
- **2011 Parish Advent Project:** In response to a request for program support from Mary Alessio, Director of Refugee Resettlement for Catholic Charities in the diocese, the Holy Spirit Liturgy Commission approved devoting the 2011 Parish Advent Project to Refugee Resettlement. The Social Justice Commission agreed to coordinate efforts with the Liturgy Commission in this endeavor. Mary Alessio will be invited to attend the SJC meeting in September to explore the possibilities for creating opportunities for parishioners to hear from or mingle with some of the refugees here in Rochester during Advent.

### **Program/Activities Updates:**

- **Social Gathering to Promote Communication Among Rochester Parishes' SJ Groups:** Margie Hake was able to obtain names of SJ groups from every parish and to contact the groups at St. Pius and St. John. The event has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. It will be potluck. We will provide the main dish, and the others will be asked to provide salad and dessert. It will be probably in Holy Spirit. The idea is to have a group from every parish.
- **IHN:** Holy Spirit will be helping Homestead United Methodist Church host the IHN families on April 10-17. One overnight host and one driver are still needed. Otherwise the volunteer crew is completed. Next turn: July 3-10.
- **Sunday Noon Meals:** The most recent Sunday when Holy Spirit was in charge of the Sunday Noon Meal Program at St. Francis was a Pancake Breakfast day. Thus, there was no need for volunteers. Attendance is down (which is good). Next turn: May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **JRLC:** An article about the JRLC Day on the Hill written by Margie Hake appeared in the Bulletin. It will be put in the Website as well.
- **Fair Trade:** There is a proposal to reduce the schedule from monthly to quarterly. Problem: when Fair Trade Weekend coincides with pancake breakfast, sales go down. After some discussion, we decided to stop during the summer and resume the monthly schedule in the fall.
- **Lenten Stations of the Cross:** The Social Justice Stations of the Cross developed by Kay Anderson were presented on the First Friday of Lent this year. The attendance was good.
- **Social Ministries Newsletter:** The next issue will contain an article by Bob Loechler on the theme of dignity of work and workers' rights and an article by Marcia Hartmann about the Sunday Noon Lunch Program. Another article will be about the JRLC and the issues that were treated (position papers) at the Day on the Hill. Target publication date: May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, May 5, 2011, at 7:00 PM in the Emmaus Room.