

Minutes ~ Social Justice Committee Meeting

May 5, 2011

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

Opening Prayer: Reflection on last Sunday's Gospel.

Minutes of March Meeting: Approved with minor changes.

Development of a Parish Social Justice Education Program: Do we want to invite one speaker, or make it a series of speakers? We are leaning towards a series targeted toward the Social Justice community citywide. The idea is start in the fall. Many names were suggested, including several by Todd Graff, Director of the Diocesan Office of Ministry Formation. Certain speakers may need approval from the Diocese. Several topics were suggested.

- Justice issues pertinent to young families, e.g., consumerism.
- Human Trafficking: Colette Sweeney reported that there is a group, Mission XXI, which has the goal of creating a safe home for victims of human trafficking. Greater numbers of human trafficking cases are coming from the US than from other countries. Lots of young people involved. Volunteers are needed. Olmsted County Attorney Mark Ostrem is supporting this. Could be a topic for a talk.
- A series on Catholic Social Teachings:
 - Key documents of Catholic Social Teaching, starting with the foundational document, Pope Leo XIII's 1891 encyclical, *Rerum Novarum* ("On the condition of labor...").
 - Programs on specific topics, as a way to apply what is learned.
- A Poverty Simulation Game recommended by Marcia Hartmann.

Social Gathering of Rochester Parishes' SJ Groups: Margie Hake reported that the other 5 parishes in Rochester have sent responses to our invitation, most of them indicating interest in participating. The date and time were set for Tuesday, June 28th, at 6:30 PM. An RSVP by June 21 will be requested. The Commons is reserved from 6-8PM. We need salads, desserts, chips, beverages. Holy Spirit will provide the meat, buns and cutlery. Margie will start contacting people soon.

2011 Parish Advent Project: Mary Alessio, Director of Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement Program, will attend our September meeting and bring some materials. When we asked her about the possibility of direct interaction with refugees, she said that she would have to get back to us on that. It will be discussed on September meeting. Judy O'Fallon will invite the Liturgy Commission to attend our September meeting, too.

Social Ministries Summer Newsletter: Mary Margaret has received all the items planned for the Summer Newsletter:

- Marcia Hartmann's article on the Rochester Catholic parishes' collaborative Sunday Noon Lunch Program.
- Margie Hake's report on Rochester attendance at the 2011 JRLC Day on the Hill.
- Judy O'Fallon's summary of the JRLC topics discussed with state legislators during the Day on the Hill.
- Bob Loechler's article on Social Justice Theme #5, "The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers."

The summer issue is now scheduled to come out in June because the Stewardship Newsletter is coming out May 21-22. NOTE: This decision was later changed after SJC members pointed out that the MN Legislature would still be in session May 21-22 but not after its May 23 mandatory adjournment date, and the Social Ministry Newsletter topics are pertinent to the MN legislature's budget discussions during final days of its session.

Program/Activities Updates:

- **IHN:** John Orbeck has given notice that he is leaving this ministry after several years. So far, no one has indicated an interest in accepting this considerable responsibility. Could a pair of parishioners share the coordinator's responsibilities? Could we do a communion invitation? If we cannot fill this position, we may have to drop from the program.
- **Sunday Noon Meals:** Marcia Hartmann reported that May 15th is the next Sunday when Holy Spirit is responsible for serving the noon meal. However, since it is a Pancake Sunday at St. Francis, no volunteers from Holy Spirit will be needed.

- **JRLC:** Margie Hake will attend the JRLC Statehood Day Vigil at the State Capitol on May 11th.
NOTE: A 5-minute video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4DE57dj9l0) shows key portions of that event.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 2, 2011, at 7:00 PM in the Emmaus Room.