St. John the Baptist

Social Justice Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2022 7:00 pm

**We are the Social Justice Committee of St. John the Baptist parish.**

**We gather as disciples committed to the Catholic social justice teachings**

**as modeled by Christ. We strive to identify and serve the needs of our parish, the local community and the broader world through awareness, education and service.**

**Attendees:** Pam Kraus, Katie Book, Linda Hansmeier, Jeanne Muellerleile, Linda Noll and Jessica Wiskus

**Opening Prayer**: We read and reflected on the today’s gospel MT 21:28-32.

**The November 14, 2022 amended minutes were approved**. Pam moved and Katie seconded.

**Updates regarding ongoing activities**:

Report on November Thanksgiving Drive for SELCC

Jessica reported that $5,511.75 was raised. Pam estimated that approximately 150 families were served. Pam reported that Denny at Gary’s Food said he orders turkeys and hams in January each year. He thought we may want to put in our order in June. Pam will further explore this possibility, get more details and report back.

Report on Operation Backpack Drive

Jessica stated that Allison thinks we will have enough funds for the school year for this project.

Report on representation for Haiti Committee

Linda Hansmeier passed out minutes from the December 6 Haiti Committee meeting. They plan to send $5000 to Father Villers. He will pass out the funds to the villages for food. Many schools are still not open. There are plans to develop a Novena for Haiti.

We also discussed St John’s Social Justice Committee’s role in the Run For Pie fundraiser for 2023. Linda H. will take our question back to the Haiti committee to clarify what changes they are suggesting.

Tithing Discussion for Quarters 1 & 2 ($3500 each) It was moved by Jeanne and seconded by Pam that we will send the $3500 tithing contributions for the first and second quarter to Catherine McAuley Center and Catholic Relief Services. All committee members are asked to come to the next meeting with ideas for the third and fourth quarter tithing recipients.

**Discuss planned activities** (checking in for needs and collaboration):

Poverty Awareness Month Linda Hansmeier and Jessica offered ideas regarding a poster and possible calendar highlighting local, national and worldwide poverty. Linda H. will do the display.

We also discussed the possibility of resurrecting the “Take Away Hunger” project for the fall of 2023. Linda Noll will reach out to the appropriate representatives to see if this is a possibility. We will discuss further later.

Pray for Life Sarah Covington will organize this 24 hour Prayer for Life on January 21, 2023.

Lenten Alms Liz will take the lead on this project.

Plastic Bag Collection Katie continues to take large bags of plastic grocery bags to St. Isadore. These are passed on to St. Patrick’s in Anamosa where the mats are made. This fall 26 mats have been made. They need more bags and appreciate St. John’s contributions.

Next Meeting: January 10, 2023