St. John the Baptist

**Social Justice Meeting Minutes**

March 20, 2023

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.**

**Members in attendance**: Liz Cullen, Ellen Bentley, Jessica Wiskus, Jeanne Muellerleile, Linda Hansmeier, Pam Kraus and Katie Book

### Opening Prayer: We read and reflected on the today’s gospel, Mt 1:16. 18-21, 24a

**Approval of Minutes from February 14, 2023** Liz moved to accept and Jessica seconded.

**Updates regarding current or completed activities:**

Report on Thanksgiving Collection Jessica reported that Trevor did call the archdiocese to inquire about distributing the excess funds from the Thanksgiving Collection to SLCC. Since it will go to the same charity, we are allowed to do this.

Jeanne moved that we donate $3, 261.04 to SLCC. Ellen seconded the motion. All approved.

It was suggested that there be a notice in the bulletin explaining this additional donation and thanking the parish for their generosity. It will also be noted on the parish website and the Facebook page.

Sacks for Mats Katie reported that she continues to take plastic grocery bags to St. Isadore on a regular basis. These bags are used to make mats for individuals without housing in Cedar Rapids, Dubuque and Davenport. So far this year, the group from St. Patrick Church in Anamosa have made 60 mats. Katie will be attending a meeting on March 24 to learn how the mats are made.

Lenten Almas for Haiti Liz reported that things are going well with the weekly e-mails. Trevor has been very helpful. Linda continues to post information on Facebook about Lenten Alms for Haiti. Linda is also working on sponsorships for Run for Pie race that supports the Haiti schools.

Catherine McAuley Center household goods drive

Jeanne reported that she and her husband dropped off the first load earlier this month and the second will be dropped off tomorrow. It has been in the bulletin weekly which is a plus. Thanks to Ellen for checking on donations the next 2 Sunday, March 26 and April 2 when Jeanne is out of town.

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

Laudato Si’ event in May Jessica will meet with Father to discuss further the possibility of using segments of the 90 minute documentary film emphasizing caring for the environment and caring for the poor. Hopefully we can invite those outside the St. John’s faith community to attend.

Other business or additional concerns. Jessica suggested we ponder ways in which to educate the parish about the seven teaching of social justice. Discussion followed with ideas to host a pancake breakfast and include an educational component from Formed. The goal is to help us all go a bit deeper by sharing a spiritual piece to each social justice project. We were all asked to come to the next two meetings with ideas on how to elevate our project to include spiritual and educational components.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2023.