

NOTES FROM THE APRIL 5, 2022 SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING

In attendance: Elizabeth, Frank C, Peter B, Gina, Martin, Barbara, Bill, Frank O'

1. **Earth Day.** *Frank Cuff* will lead a 1-hour zoom session based on Catholic environmental teaching on Thursday, April 21, at 7 pm. Contact *Gina* to get on the email list.
2. **Arbor Day.** *Frank Cuff* will lead an effort to create a "Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Habitat" for the parish this spring. One possible location is in the garden at St. Francis church. *Barbara* will check with other churches in Winthrop to see if it might be an ecumenical effort. Another possibility would be in the garden between St. Mary's Church and the rectory. *Gina* will ask Fr. John what he thinks. *Karen* will be asked to check with the youth program.
3. **Catholic Relief Services support group.** Chris West of the CRS national group is conducting initiation sessions. The third and last session will be on Monday, April 25, at 6:30 pm. *Gina* was contacted by the parish coordinator at John Paul II parish in Scarborough about participating in this. *Bill* will call the coordinator and contact others from other parishes who may be interested.
4. **The Faith We Live series.** *Elizabeth* reports that the second session on the social justice series will be held on zoom at 7 pm on May 18. Contact *Gina* to get on the zoom list.
5. **Collection for the Open Arms Pregnancy Center.** In combination with the Faith We Live program, the Social Justice Commission will support the Sacred Heart Ladies Guild in conducting collections for the Open Arms Pregnancy Center on three Sundays in May. Size 5 diapers will be a focus; also financial contributions. *Gina* will check with Fr. John about timing and the possibility of a special collection. As with other collections, *Martin* will set up boxes in the two Augusta churches, *Barbara* will handle Winthrop, *Elizabeth* and *Frank C* will handle Gardiner, and *Gina* Whitefield. *Gina* and *Karen* will work with youth ministry to make posters.
6. **Bridging the Gap collection.** *Peter B* was contacted by Robin Hughes at Bridging the Gap about posting a request for volunteers in our bulletin, and conducting a hygiene drive in the near future. The group decided to conduct the drive in August, which provides a little space from the Open Arms collection, and is a time of high attendance with summer visitors. *Peter B* will get back to Robin, and get the volunteer request to *Gina* to put in the bulletin.
7. **Angel Food Supper.** The next supper at South Parish Church in Augusta will be Saturday afternoon, April 30. *Frank Cuff* is arranging the volunteer schedule. The Gardiner group may not be able to cook, so *Fern*, *Gina* and *Peter C* will be on call.
8. **Church garden.** *Gina*, *Frank C*. and others will hold a zoom call to talk about plans for starting the garden back up this May. A 115 gallon composter has been donated this year. All who are interested please contact Frank C.

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9. **Bill Wood update.** Yvonne Chase will be speaking about the Diocesan mission effort on zoom on Monday April 11 at 7 pm. Matthew 25 awards for small social justice projects will be made in April; the focus will be refugees and mental health. There is a poster contest on religion and art; Bill will check with Ms Hardy (?) at St. Michael School, who teaches both religion and art. Bill will ask Suzanne what is happening with the KVO money. Contact Bill for any questions.

10. **Next meeting.** Will be on Tuesday, May 10, at 7 pm on zoom.

11. **Peter B** led us in prayer at the beginning and end of the session.