

St. Odilia Social Justice Ministry Area Council

Minutes 08-22-2023

Name	Attending? Y/N	Name	Attending? Y/N
Beth Aune	Y	Phil Aune - Chair	Y
Sheba Fernandez	Y	Annetta Sutton	N
Lynn Belgea	Y	Bernie Wiwel - Recorder	Y
Steve Kahat	Y	Attending PLC Rep –	Fr. John
Barb Woodruff	Y		

(PLC Reps: Vicky Cherne, Troy Gregory, Anne Rodenberg, Allison Dirksen)

Opening Prayer

Review of Last Minutes

Minutes were approved with some additional edits pending.

PLC Update

- Beth gave an update on the last PLC meeting.

World youth day

- Phil reminded everyone that the Latino Community funding for World Youth Day was approved.
- There was some discussion on organizing a gathering where the children attending World Youth Day could come and share stories of their experience with members of the parish or at least with members of the SJC.

Ongoing Activity

Sister Parish

- Sheba is narrowing down a day and time to meet with John Berkland from St. Peter Clavier (probably Sat or Sun) to follow up on the Sister Parish work.

Scholarship Fund

- Sheba presented an outline of the plan for implementing the scholarship fund and how it would be possible to have the Catholic Community Fund set up and handle the funds for the scholarship.
- Fr. John wondered if there would be some way to invest the money and let it grow a couple of years to provide a more substantial award.
- Steve suggested that having some visible way for the students receiving the scholarship to express their gratitude and what it means for them to have help in achieving their education might inspire potential future donors for supporting and growing the fund.

After discussing, the motion to commit the totality of the bequest to go toward the scholarship fund was unanimously approved by the SJC.

REM: Discussions with Jim Stewart a speaker on racial history

- Steve got in touch with Jim Stewart to explore his interest in possibly giving a talk with the parish.
- Their discussion made clear that the talk would greatly benefit the larger community of Shoreview and the decision was made to hold a talk at the Shoreview Community Center for Oct 26 6:00 to 7:30.
- REM is supportive of this effort and will be giving Jim a donation for holding the talk.
- The donation as part of a community outreach effort will be discussed with the PLC.

Art from the Inside

Beth gave an update on efforts to work with Art from the Inside:

- Lynn, Sheba, and Beth participated in a Zoom call with Jessica and Antonio Espinosa to discuss if there are ways for St. Odilia to actively support the Art from the Inside program.
- The idea of exhibiting prisoner art in a church venue presents the problem that it does not in general lead to sale of the art which is an important goal of the project for helping to support the financial needs of the prisoners and their families.
- People also have needs after getting out of prison, which equally presents an opportunity for an ongoing relationship.

At this point there is still some exploration of ideas on how to get involved with this program. Some thoughts that were brought forth:

- Donation of art supplies would be one way to participate in the program.
- After getting out of prison, a car becomes an important necessity in overcoming financial hardship, so there is some need in gaining a connection to old beater cars to fill this gap.
- Art exhibits are held for only 1 month so this also would not work for the church venue.

- Sheba wondered if there may be ways to build a small network of businesses that could help improve the situation of prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families.
- Christmas would also be a good time to provide gifts for these families.

New Activity

Fall Festival

Discussed the following ideas for the Fall Festival basket:

- Steve says he has an extra \$50 gift card for the restaurant All Square which can be put into the Fall Festival gift basket.
- It would be desirable to add a second gift card into the basket.
- Is there anyone in the Latino Community that might own a restaurant that we might buy a gift card from?
- Lynn has many baskets and could provide one.
- Perhaps we could include a gift certificate to African American Heritage Museum.
- Phil had some thoughts on this which he wants follow up on via email.

Closing Prayer