



MEETING DETAILS

Description: Justice and Charity Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 11, 2022

Time: 7:30 – 9:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Chair: Bob Cooley

Members

- **Present:** Bob Brezinski, Tim Dulac, Lisa Harvey, Steve Melcher, Mirla Conlon - SJN staff representative, Carol Wirsbinski - Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Liaison
- **Absent:** Kathy Browning
- **Recorder:** Lisa Harvey

OPENING ACTIVITIES

- **Opening Prayer** – Lisa Harvey
- **Review/Approve previous minutes.** Minutes approved.
- **Overall Committee Mission/Purpose** - Through the Justice and Charity ministries, we encounter the Christ in our brothers and sisters as we prayerfully learn about and respond to their needs and root causes of those needs. We are transformed through these encounters as we more faithfully follow the greatest commandments: to love God with all our heart, soul and mind and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Parish Pastoral Council Update: Carol Wirsbinski

No report

Agenda Items

Topic 1: Program Updates

Mirla provided the following updates

- BTCG activities
 - Bill Blazar – January 24th, 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Immigration presentation at SJN Social Hall. His presentation will focus on the immigrant's important contribution to the economy of our State. He will help us understand the forces driving increased migration. And he will highlight why increased immigration is important to our State.
 - Roger New, Eagan Police Chief – Monday, February 7th at 7:00 – 8:30 pm at the Police Station.
- Guatemala Mission - \$38,000 donated from SJN to support stove project. 10 parishioners will travel to Guatemala in February. A youth mission trip is being planned for July 2022
- Baby Shower – SJN is collecting baby and new Mom items between the weeks of January 16 and February 19. Most needed items are listed on the SJN website.



- MICAH – SJN is hosting a virtual MICAH meeting on February 11, 2022

Topic 2: Discussed proposed JCC goals and objectives

As we started our discussion, Bob C noted that the JCC is an umbrella group with the purpose to provide oversight for all Justice and Charity ministries and taking on the task of supporting the parish in efforts to expand knowledge about Catholic Social Teaching was within its responsibility. He offered insight into the definitions of Social Justice versus Biblical Justice. Biblical Justice is grounded in AGAPE love and the respect and dignity of every individual, while Social Justice addresses the inequalities that exist within our society and often labels groups and or individuals as antagonists or protagonists. Although there is overlap in the two definitions, we should be using Biblical Justice and Charity definitions as guideposts for our work. He suggested we take time to better understand the differences between Biblical Justice and Social Justice as we look to integrate CST in our parish.

Bob C drafted the following JCC goals and objectives and asked for critical review.

Justice and Charity Committee Goals – 2021/2022

1. Be responsible for teaching the themes of Catholic Social Teaching and implementing a change in the Parish culture so that we observe changes in individual parishioner's behavior and lives so that they match the tenants of Catholic Social Teaching, the definition of a Catholic, providing opportunities for personal conversion experiences and lead to individual transformations and becoming closer to Jesus Christ.
2. Assure that the Justice and Charity Committee and its Ministries fulfill the requirements of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Objectives to achieve committee goals:

1. Through the use of a sub-committee on Catholic Social Teaching which will dig deep in understanding CST and Biblical Charity and Justice, and developing, with staff, curriculum offerings to the parish.
2. Through a use of a sub-committee which will investigate the operations of the Committee and Ministries to assure that they align with the requirements for Committees and their Ministries as written in the Committee/Ministry Handbook of 2016.

Committee members commented on the first goal – “Be responsible for teaching the themes of Catholic Social Teaching and implementing a change in the Parish culture so that we observe changes in individual parishioner's behavior and lives so that they



match the tenants of Catholic Social Teaching, the definition of a Catholic, providing opportunities for personal conversion experiences and lead to individual transformations and becoming closer to Jesus Christ”.

Committee members noted this first goal was ambitious and seemed to shift the work of the committee from that of doing work to educating the parish on Catholic Social teaching.

While the committee members agreed with the intent of the goal, we discussed ways to create awareness about Catholic Social Teaching in the parish that would be achievable and measurable in 2022. Members proposed we introduce CST in a series of short articles that would be published in the newsletter and bulletin. The purpose of these articles would be make the 7 tenants of CST tangible by aligning them with the current ministry work of the parish.

In addition to creating awareness of CST, the committee would work to develop a robust plan for advancing a CST at SJN. The plan would encompass the following key areas:

- Academic - Development of CST curriculum
- Action – Support and creation of ministries that puts CST in action
- Culture – CST is foundational to being a Catholic

Action

Bob asked for assistance in editing goals and objectives to reflect the committee’s discussion. Lisa will draft second version of goals and objectives and share with committee members.

Topic 3: Background reading

Bob encouraged committee members to explore the following resources, those with an asterisk are highly suggested.

Books:

- God’s Justice – The Holy Bible, NIV
- Catholic Social Thought – O’Brien/Shannon, ORBIS
- Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church – Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace – USCCB
- Handbook of Catholic Social Teaching* – Edited by Monsignor Martin Schlag – CAU Press
- DOCAT – What to do?* – produced by Arnd Kuppers and Peter Schattenberg – Ignatius Press
- Going Going Gone – The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics – A study by Saint Mary’s Press of Minnesota, Inc



Articles and other:

- Guidelines For the Study and Teaching of the Church's Social Doctrine in the Formation of Priests – Congregation for Catholic Education – Rome 1988
- MT 506 Catholic Social Teaching Course Syllabus – Notre Dame Seminary Graduate school of Theology
- Archdiocesan Social Ministry Survey – Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Adam Fitzpatrick, Social Mission Outreach Coordinator, Center for Mission, St. Paul, MN
- Goals – Justice and Charity – SJN WebsiteSJN – Justice and Charity Committee Annual Reporting Tool, Part 1: Objectives and Plan for Reporting

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

1. *Review 2022 Goals and Objectives*
2. *Proposals to the PPC:*
 - A. Rename “Charity and Justice” Committee to “Love, Charity, Justice, and Peace” Committee. Or “Mission: Love, Charity, Justice, and Peace”.

This change coincides with the general thread that runs through both Catholic Social Teaching and Catholic Social Thought as well as the Principles of Catholic Teaching: Life and Dignity of the Human Person, Call to Family Community, Participation, Rights, and Responsibilities, Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers, Solidarity and Subsidiarity, Care for God's Creation. This change and its resultant outcomes are consistent with the Parish Mission and the Goals of the PPC for 2021/2022. We propose CST programming including all areas within the Principles through a CST lens. And, perhaps, a Ministry could be established to work with our elementary school on CST.

- B. Expand the charter of our committee to include working with staff to familiarize our parishioners with Catholic Social Teaching (see above) and its place in Catholicism and assist other committees to assure that they are using the framework of Catholic Social Teaching in their offerings to our parishioners and the community
- C. SJN set aside 10% of its annual budget for use by the Charity and Justice Committee in support of the poor and marginalized within our Parish.

Closing Prayer: Carol Wirsbinski

Next Meeting

JCC

February 8, 2022 7pm-9pm

SJN Social Hall or Zoom