

## Social Concerns Meeting Minutes March 20, 2023

Members in Attendance: Reta Althaus, Sharon Anderson, Meghan Bramlage, Patsy Carlson, Paul Carlson, Doris Larkins, Patty McClain, Carmen Santee and Eva Moritz  
Fr. Ryan also joined the committee.

Send all minutes to Father Ken Halbur ([frken@slte.org](mailto:frken@slte.org)), Father Ryan Andrew ([frryan@slte.org](mailto:frryan@slte.org)), Annette Bailey ([Annette.bailey@slte.org](mailto:Annette.bailey@slte.org)), Mike Gatzke ([webmaster@saintluketheevangelist.org](mailto:webmaster@saintluketheevangelist.org)), and Meg Schon ([meg@schonfamily.com](mailto:meg@schonfamily.com))

### Opening Prayer

Reta led us in prayer.

### USCCB's Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Patsy led the committee in a discussion of the teaching of the Life and Dignity of the Human Person using a handout from the USCCB.

### Sister Parish Relationship – Father Ryan

Father Ryan spoke of an opportunity to engage in a relationship with the parish St Martin De Porres located in Zuarungu, Ghana. A description of the parish and some of their needs and plans was distributed. The pastor, Fr Raphael Akurugu, was a seminarian classmate of Fr. Ryan who spoke highly of him. He also informed us that his Bishop is scheduled to speak at St Luke's in July as part of a missionary coop organized by the Diocese of Des Moines. Fr. Ken has voiced his support of developing a sister relationship with St Martin De Porres and the committee agreed to help bring this about. We discussed the possibility of meeting with those in other parishes who have established sister parish relationships to learn more about how it works. Fr Ryan will be in touch with Fr Raphael. *[after the meeting Eva provided a link to a 26 minute podcast of an interview with Fr Raphael conducted by the Iowa Catholic Radio].*

### Rice Bowl During Lent

Patsy had informed the group that in talking to Nick Rahe it was apparent that we don't have the available space to host the Catholic Social Ministry's "Poverty Simulation Program" this Lent. She has submitted articles to be placed in the bulletin and the email announcements each week of Lent. Rice Bowls will be brought back to church on Easter weekend with the money counted shortly afterwards.

### Tithe of the Tithe from January and February Tithes

St Agnes Parish at the Pine Ridge Indian reservation	\$2,000
Habitat for Humanity (Catholic Circle of Faith)	\$3,000
Catholic Relief Services (Rice Bowl)	<u>\$1,578</u>
	\$6,578

(the check to CRS will be delayed and sent with the Rice Bowl collection)

### St Luke's School Mission Project

Doris informed the group that Emily Haack and Anna Schaeffer, two St. Luke's parents, asked if the Social Concerns Committee would be interested in working with the school on their monthly mission project. A saint is chosen for each month and the saint's virtues or special works are highlighted. The students bring in money during the month to donate to a charity that focuses on the merits of that saint. Our committee voted to become involved with this plan. We formed a sub-committee to work on coordinating our Tithes of the Tithes funds with the mission donations from the school. The members who volunteered to work on this committee are Jean McPherson, Reta Althaus, Patty McClain, and Doris Larkins

### Future Events

- Catholic Worker House meals are scheduled for March 25, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and May 27<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day Weekend). Austin from CWH offered to speak at mass to thank the community for their support.
- The annual Habitat for Humanity build will take place in April – June. Paul will attend a meeting on Wednesday and Doris will reach out to Karen Bishop to determine if there is interest in providing lunch.
- Family Promise will be held in consecutive months this summer with St Luke's asked to handle June 18<sup>th</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Paul will visit with Paul Moritz about future activities planned by the Knights of Columbus to determine if there are opportunities to collaborate.

### Next Meeting

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 in the conference room in the parish office.