

... And Justice for All
Sunday, September 18, 2011

Present: Carolyn Varner; Mary Yanko; Mary and Dave Tschantz; Greg Said; Jack and Jan Pierson; Maxine Floreani; Larry and MaryBeth Furman; Harry Skeen; Tom McCusker; Rita M. Rochford

The meeting was convened at 10:18 a.m. Maxine read the opening prayer.

The following items in the minutes of the August meeting were revised: the St. Vincent/St. Mary effort is ongoing, therefore the verb “resurrect” is changed to “sustain.” The movie to be sponsored by our committee at the school is The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, not Pray the Devil Back to Hell.

Bridges Out of Poverty

Rita led the discussion of Chapter 8 in Bridges Out of Poverty. She distributed a detailed outline of the chapter. The following comments were made during the discussion:

- children need to see that there are consequences to their actions;
- although families in poverty are characterized by a matriarchal structure, the reality is that the mother typically is not present but, rather, is working out of the house;
- discipline is inconsistent in families, for example, punishment is meted out only if the child becomes involved in the juvenile court system;
- middle-class norms, such as self-sufficiency, are not common in families in poverty;
- children need to learn minimum norms for employment, although, as Greg pointed out, many employers do not have clear standards; Juvenile Court tries to get mentors for the Court’s clients;
- juvenile crime has decreased both in Cuyahoga County and in Summit County during the current economic downturn;
- counties with fewer services will see higher confinement rates for children than in counties with more fiscal resources and more services; and
- the “Scared Straight” and D.A.R.E. programs are not effective in addressing juvenile delinquency, but AA’s 12-step program and the specialty courts under Juvenile Court are effective.

Next month, Greg will lead discussion of Chapter 9 in Bridges Out of Poverty, regarding resources and resiliency.

Catholic Commission Update

Mary Tschantz said that patron forms for the annual dinner are available. She distributed a flyer announcing Sr. Helen Prejean’s presentation November 15 at St. Martin of Tours in Valley City. In addition, Sr. Prejean will be at a breakfast meeting November 16 at First Congregational Church in Akron.

The Commission’s general session was devoted to the subject of framing. A hand-out listing websites and online resources regarding framing was distributed.

The Commission, subject to Diocesan approval, will endorse the Akron school levy.

Greg said that the Commission will develop an employment/jobs center in Summit County.

On October 20, the Commission will have its first on-the-road meeting, at Queen of Heaven parish in Green, regarding fair trade. On October 22, a fair trade exposition will be held at John Carroll University.

Movie Series

Carolyn said that there has been no response regarding whether high school students will help during the series. Mary Tschantz said that a pdf of the movie series flyer was sent to the media and was supposed to have been in this weekend's bulletin, as well as St. Vincent's bulletin, but it was not in the bulletins. A sign-up sheet for dessert and salad each night was distributed.

Parish Council

Mary Yanko said that Barb Neman, our parish council rep, informed her that we will sponsor the October 2 Donut Sunday. For the 9:00 mass, Mary Yanko, Dave and Mary Tschantz, and Harry volunteered. Mary Yanko, Larry and MaryBeth Furman, and Carolyn volunteered for the 11:00 mass.

Greg and Mary Y. distributed and described the draft letter to Fr. Valenchek which they prepared regarding our committee. Discussion of the draft included the following points: the letter should be simplified; the focus of our committee should be on adult education; the parish, in light of its and our mission statements, should have a line item in its budget for social justice; the Lenten program, while sponsored by our committee, is a parish function; and the letter should explain the need for \$1,000 for our committee to cover expenses for the Lenten program. Mary Y. said that Greg and she will meet with Tim Kostelic and discuss those points, including the need for a decision by next month as to whether funds for the Lenten program will be provided either from the parish budget or from another source.

Other Business

Contact Barb Neman regarding volunteering for Donut Sunday in October.

The following events and meetings were announced:

- First Friday Club, October 7;
- Social Justice and Human Rights Breakfast, Knight Center, October 15;
- Sr. Helen Prejean, Dead Man Walking, Hoban High School, November 4; and
- Invictus, St. Hilary's peace group, October 7.

The next meeting will be October 16, 10:00 a.m., Byrider Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned approximately at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully,

John C. Pierson