

Meeting Minutes
St. Sebastian/St. Vincent Social Justice Ministry
Sunday, February 17, 2019

Members Present: Rob Brooks, Larry Furman, Greg Sain, Harry Skeen, Linda Skeen, Dave Tschantz, Mary Tschantz, Carolyn Varner, Mary Yanko,

Prayer: Carolyn offered the prayer/reflection from Social Justice prayers.

General Session:

Carolyn led the discussion involving the Introduction and first section of *Mater et Magistra*, John XXIII, May, 1961, paragraphs 1-50. This was published on the 70th anniversary of *Rerum Novarum*. Items discussed included:

- ! The initial parts of the encyclical outline the social justice issues addressed in *Rerum Novarum*, 1891, which were repeated and expanded forty years later in *Quadragesimo Anno*, 1931. These documents advocate for right-to-work, just wages, freedom of choice for workers, freedom to migrate for families, government's responsibility to assure safe and fair employment practices, etc. The documents also stood in opposition to socialism, and Communism.
- ! An item of discussion that arose related to the importance of a shared definition for words. Many conversations stumble due to the participants' sense of the words being used. "Liberal", "conservative", "socialism" and similar mean different things to different people. This is complicated by discussing these types of documents that were written many years ago. "Liberal" is an example of a word that has meant different things at different points in history.
- ! As part of the discussion regarding government's role in assuring fair employment practices, the distinction between "equality" and "equity" was highlighted. Rules can assure blind equal treatment but this only works between those on equal footing in society. Fair enforcement of rules between people of different economic status or between people of power and people who are disadvantaged is difficult. Social justice dictates that this difficulty be faced, understood, and accommodated.
- ! Cary Dabney, recent speaker on Racism at the Elms mentioned the "Doll Test – the effect of racism on children" - a reenactment of a 1940 study done in the US. It highlights how our society can shape self-image in children. A video is available on YouTube.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRZPw-9sJtQ>

Dave Tschantz will lead the discussion at next month's meeting. The focus will be Part II - The Teaching of *Rerum Novarum*, para 51-121.

St. Vincent Report:

- ! Program on Gun Safety is Tues. February 26 at 7:00-8:45PM in the Scullen Room. Jeff Campbell, Catholic Commission Director for Summit County will handle the Introduction, including information from CST on violence reduction. Panelists include Erin Dickinson, leader of the Akron Chapter for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America; and Sgt. Jamie Donahue with the Akron Police Dept.
- ! Follow-up program on Climate Change is tentatively scheduled for Tues, May 7 (since Earth Day, April 21 is Easter Sunday); Dave and Mary T will coordinate (working title: TRASH: Taking Responsibility...)
- ! Agreed to support Food Bank Walk to benefit Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Sunday May 5 (Registration 2pm/Walk 3PM)

- ! Agreed to follow-up on Northside Farmers Market Tour – would like to schedule as “Field Trip” during our regular meeting time Sunday May 19 -9:45AM, to allow folks to travel from St V following 8:30AM Mass.

Minutes: The January Minutes were reviewed and will be placed on file. Sign-up for 2019 prayer/treat was passed around.

Catholic Commission Update:

- ! Commission discussed what type of approach it should take re: teaching/advocacy
- ! Fr. Chris (St. Bernard’s new pastor) attended meeting; seems to have SJ perspective
- ! Emphasize ‘Care for God’s Creation’
- ! Legislative trip to DC – following conference, met with legislators/staff
- ! Crown Point event on Environment in the works – probably after Easter
- ! Copley Rd “better block initiative” discussed
- ! May 5 Hunger Walk presented
- ! Rice Bowl in parishes during Lent promoted

Announcements:

1. Keep Annie in prayer (pneumonia) and Rob Brooks (knee surgery) this week.
2. First Friday Club March 1, 2019 @ Tangier. Catholic Students from Summit County High Schools. Doors open 11AM.

Next meeting: **Sunday, March 17 at St. Vincent Rectory following 8:30AM Mass.**

Prayer: Dave T

Treat: Mary T

Minutes prepared by Mary Tschantz