

Meeting Minutes
St. Sebastian/St. Vincent Social Justice Ministry
Sunday, September 15, 2019

Members Present: Rob Brooks, Annie Burris, Larry Furman, DonnaMarie Kaminsky, Harry Skeen, Linda Skeen, Dave Tschantz, Mary Tschantz, Carolyn Varner, Mary Yanko.

Prayer: Rob offered the prayer “Sacraments and Social Mission: Living the Gospel, Being Disciples” from the USCCB.

General Session:

Rob provided a handout and led the discussion involving Part IV of *Mater et Magistra*, John XXIII, The Teaching of *Rerum Novarum*, paragraphs 212-264 “The Rebuilding of a Social Order” and “Conclusion”. Items discussed included:

1. The duty of Catholics to act out the Catholic Social Teachings (CST) of the Church at work and in our daily lives regardless of our position of responsibility. This applies to all phases of our lives.
2. The Pope notes that despite all of the scientific and technical progress, we still have not solved the problems of inequality and relationships between peoples and countries. Regarding this, in pp213, the document notes the statement “...they fail to account for the deep-rooted sense of religion which exists in all men everywhere...”, which some in the group felt extreme. There are atheistic people that believe in social justice and strive for the same social goals outlined in the document. The intended audience for this document are people of the church whose duty is to strive for social justice because human individuals are members of the Body of Christ. The Pope is speaking to them and acknowledging the fundamental need for justice that all people feel.
3. The needless lack of inclusive language continues to distract many members of the group.
4. The document highlights the critical need that CST education be a priority in seminaries. CST should be a focus in Catholic schools and programs of laity formation in parishes. It should be talked about in publications and broadcasts. This is fundamental to a movement toward true justice.
5. The document calls for the clergy and the laity to take opportunities to educate people on CST in our actions and interactions with all people around us. We must model CST and use its language highlighting injustice and proposing responses.
6. The document, as a whole, is a call to action.

Minutes: The Minutes for August were approved; Mary T apologized for neglecting to include the reference for October’s discussion:

http://m.vatican.va/content/francescomobile/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20161120_misericordia-et-misera.html

Catholic Commission Update: No report in Greg’s absence. Mary T reminded the group about making reservations for the Cosgrove dinner; request to sit at the St. Sebastian tables. The Bishop Cosgrove Dinner and Silent Auction will be earlier this year – Friday, November 15, 2019 at Tangier, starting at 6PM with Cash Bar/7PM Dinner. Tickets available at Eventbrite.com, keyword: Bishop Cosgrove Dinner. For more information, contact Jeff Campbell, CC Director, 330-535-2787

St. Vincent Report:

Rob reported that Voter Registration, supported by the League of Women Voters occurred Sept 7-8. It resulted in 3 new registrants, and 4 address changes, with interesting conversations throughout.

St. Sebastian Report:

- ! Voter Registration will occur the weekend of Sept 28-29, in the McDonough Resource Center. Carolyn will staff all Masses; Annie will assist at the 4:30PM Sat, Mary Y at the 11AM Sunday, and Greg will be asked to help at the 9AM Sunday.
- ! Carolyn will talk with Fr. Simone re: response to the parish discussion "Letter to a Suffering Church" by Bishop Robert Barron. The group decided to continue the discussion at the November 17 meeting, and encourage Fr. Simone to attend. Carolyn will check and see if there are additional copies of the document available at the parish. Carolyn also recommended an article in *The Atlantic* "The Murder of a Soul" as a supplement to the discussion.

Announcements:

1. First Friday Club Oct 4, 2019 @ Tangier. The Most Rev. Nelson J. Perez, Bishop, Diocese of Cleveland. Doors open 11AM.
2. DonnaMarie is trying to schedule a meeting with St. Hilary pastor Fr. Steve Brunovsky about bringing in Dr. Ted Raddell who works in trauma recovery to address the matter of clergy sexual abuse with an emphasis on its effects on victims.
3. Sr. Simone Campbell of NETWORK will be speaking in Cleveland at the Community of St. Peter at 3PM Saturday October 12.

Next meeting: **Sunday, October 20 at St. Sebastian Byrider Hall following 9:00AM Mass.** Discussion of *Misericordia et Misera* the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis at the conclusion of the extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy November 20, 2016.

Discussion Leader, Prayer and Treat: Harry and Linda

Minutes prepared by Mary Tschantz