

**St. Perpetua Social Justice Committee Meeting**  
**October 17, 2019**

**Members Present:** Mary Terjeson (Chair), Marielle Narkiewicz (Secretary), Pat Snyder, Dee Dee Hansen, Ramona Davis, Christoph Nauer, Marlene Matsuoka, Buzz Sherwood, Laura Monin

**Welcome and Opening Prayer:** Christoph welcomed everyone and began with The Indigenous People's Day Prayer.

**Approve Minutes from last Month and Review Action Items: Mary**

- All minutes approved.
- Gun violence update: Christoph received a letter back from Steve Glazer's office, thanking us for our efforts. Mary wasn't able to meet with Evan Brewer yet who offered to help us write a letter to the NRA. Mary asks the committee if writing a letter to the NRA is still something we want to pursue especially because this is a separate issue to the three issues we've committed to for the social justice committee. The committee agrees to table this item until gun violence comes up again as an issue in the news.
- Homelessness Awareness announcement November 9/10: Postponed until we discuss housing below.
- January 2020 review committee initiatives: Be sure to come to the January meeting prepared to vote if we still want to pursue these three issues.

**Housing discussion – Mary / Joan**

The county's Health Housing and Homeless Services Planning and Policy Manager is putting together a toolkit for the Homeless Month of November. When Christoph receives this, he will distribute the information shared with the committee. This will be a one-page fact sheet along with a listing of agencies and what they do, what they may need with respect to items as well as volunteering opportunities. They are also putting together a video to share information throughout the county. Christoph will follow up on getting more information on the video. Christoph is checking with Fr John that we may use the masses on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> to speak from the pulpit on this topic.

The County is seeking volunteer speakers to ask Contra Costa cities/towns to adopt a proclamation declaring November as Homelessness Awareness Month. Volunteer advocates will be scheduled on their city/town council agenda to provide information and education about homelessness when they request the proclamation. Information on the proclamation will be forwarded to volunteers with talking points. If you would like to sign up for speaking at public meetings for homelessness awareness month, you can do so [here](#). It is best to choose a community where you live and/or work, as constituents tend to have the most impact on public officials.

**Other issue update – Buzz / Pat / Mary**

- Immigration: Buzz has no updates since he's been away, and the topic has not been in the news recently. He will come to the next meeting with updates.
  - Pat discussed National Migration Week: January 5-11, 2020. Please visit <https://justiceforimmigrants.org> to get more information on immigration issues, human

trafficking and is aligned with Catholic Social Teaching. They also include ideas on community engagement issues that we may want to consider as a committee. They have a 15-page document, which includes facts, talking points, tips, community engagement ideas, etc. We can use this to create a program that is doable for us. Pat would like us to research this site and come prepared to the November meeting to discuss.

- Health: Pat will put together a healthcare review presentation related to reform ideas in presidential candidate plans. When this is prepared Pat will present this topic to the social justice committee for the January meeting.
- Signs for immigration: Postponed until we find out what else we may use the signs for.

### **MFAC opportunities – Mary / Pat**

MFAC may have opportunities for Social Justice Committee to promote to the parish. When we find out that MFAC supports a bill that aligns with our three initiatives, we can support that through this committee. We can use this as part of our discussion when we review our initiatives in January.

### **Parish communications project – Mary / Christoph**

This weekend's bulletin will feature healthcare. DeeDee had the idea that we should include housing as the communications feature for the weekend before the November 9-10 Homelessness information share (November 2-3) to give more information on what's coming for Homelessness Awareness month.

### **Opportunities to participate – Mary / All**

- Immigration: Demos ended for this year.

### **Announcements / Next Meeting**

- The committee decided to have a meeting in December this year, unlike 2018, and all have decided to meet on December 12<sup>th</sup>.
- We will discuss National Migration Week during the November meeting.

### **Action Items**

- Mary will draft announcement for Homeless weekend and work with Christoph on handouts.
- Volunteers for Homelessness Awareness weekend at St Perpetua's (November 9-10):
  - Saturday 5pm mass: Marlene will be the speaker and Ramona will man the table
  - Sunday 8am mass: Mary will be the speaker and Melly will man the table
  - Sunday 9:30am mass: Ramona will be the speaker and Dee Dee and Christoph will man the table
  - Sunday 11:30am mass: Pat will be the speaker and Laura will man the table
  - If anyone else from the Social Justice committee would like to volunteer, please let Mary Terjeson know. Whatever mass you attend please help out at the table.
- Each committee member should review <https://justiceforimmigrants.org> and come prepared to discuss at the November meeting.
- Buzz to follow-up on the information forwarded by Joan regarding the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity's Accompaniment training.

- Pat will determine what deadlines we're facing to hold a voter registration table at St Perpetua prior to the primary election in March.

**Next Meeting – November 21, 2019 at 7pm in the Parish Office, Chairperson will be Mary Terjeson**