

St. Perpetua Social Justice Committee Meeting December 12, 2019

Members Present: Pat Snyder, Marlene Matsuoka, Mary Terjeson (Rotating Chair), Laura Monin, Joan Liston, Christoph Nauer, Buzz Sherwood, Ann Porcella, Sharon Flower

Mary opened with a prayer.

Action Items Prior Meeting

We need to better inform parishioners how to use the 211 cards. Pat agreed to write a Bulletin blurb and we will make the card available to parishioners. Ann passed out 211 cards to committee members.

Mary passed a sign-up sheet for Rotating Chair in 2020. If anyone can share the responsibility it would be helpful.

Health Care

There will be a hearing on the Health Care Reform bill that has been forced by organizing and insisting. There have been three committee hearings in the House of Representatives on single payer and other reforms such as the public option. These are the first hearings that have ever occurred on single payer bills, despite that fact that there have been bills introduced several times in earlier sessions. MFAC is holding a panel discussion on the presidential candidates National Health Care Plans Feb 5, 7-8:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church of Concord. Pat will provide more information at January meeting.

Immigration

National Immigration week is the first week in January. In presenting issues to the parish, we should keep things as simple as possible—short sentences, suggestions for action, emphasize Jesus as a refugee.

Laura agreed to put together a split poster---one half The Holy Family and one half a Central American family—to use as a kick off and theme for our presentations.

We will emphasize the National Migration Week Talking Points in bulletin articles and parish presentations. This will lead to a climactic event the 1st week of February with a pulpit announcement and table with handouts and possible advocacy opportunities.

We discussed urging parishioners to write letters using some of the samples in the tool kit. We also talked about writing a letter to the Bishops urging them to speak out and lead on this issue telling them what we expect them to do – at the border, in the community, across the country. We might then ask all parishioners to sign it. Buzz agreed to draft a letter.

Letters might also be written to President Trump and the Director of Homeland Security.

Working on the census and with voter registration were also suggested.

Housing and Shelter Updates

Trinity Center/Walnut Creek—

- Move to the permanent site from 1300 Boulevard Way to 1924 Trinity Ave. into the 1st floor offices in the new building will occur sometime after January 1st. An upcoming Chamber of Commerce meeting will discuss the approval of 8 apts. to be set aside for low-cost housing above the 1st floor. No date has been set yet on the resident move-in.
- Volunteers are still needed for the Evening Program at the Armory. Over 100 volunteers are needed. Positions include:
 - Driving participants to and from Boulevard Way site to the Armory on Civic Drive—approx. 1 hr.
 - Providing dinner to participants
 - Acting as a floor monitor

See website for details and sign-up sheet: trinitycenterwc.org

County/State News—

Contra Costa County Health Services/ www.cchealth.org/h3

- 2020 PIT (Point in Time) Count is planned for January 23. This will be during a year when a report to HUD is not occurring and will be less intensive than the 2019 Count. The plan is to send out teams to count unsheltered individuals, followed by a count 2 weeks later. There will be more data input provided by the agencies involved with Single Entry information and those providing housing and enhanced services in order to augment count accuracy.
- State Bill on Tenants Rights is pending.

Covia/Home Match – **is** expanding, more information to follow.

Parish Communications

We will put the SJ minutes on the Parish Website, **mission statement is already in place.**

Tabled items

Accompaniment Training and Gun Violence letter (to be revived as needed) were removed. All others remain with action to be determined.

Pat reported that the League of Women Voters is collecting signatures for an initiative repealing Proposition 13 for commercial property. Before prop 13 tax collections were about 50/50 commercial and residential. Now residential is 72 and commercial 28. This has a significant impact on funding. We need to see if this connects with Catholic social teaching.

Next meeting: January 15, 2020 Chair Buzz Sherwood