

St. Mary Magdalene Social Justice and Peace Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

Present: Anne Scheuermann, Lois Campbell, Virginia Cook, Holly Mohr, Michael Drohan, Joyce Rothermel, and Rae O'Hair Excused: Jim Ruck, Emily Lippert, Evelyn Christie, and Linda Burns  
Meeting was held via Zoom.

Welcome to new member, Holy Mohr, Introductions and Opening Prayer by Virginia Cook

1. Accomplishments since July 15: Letter writing, weekly bulletin input, distribution of Walk shirts, distribution of mail in ballot applications at parish pantries and backs of our churches, participation in APP Speakers' Series with Nick Cafardi and Fr. James Martin, participation in Stop Banking the Bomb picket and letter to PNC in support of the SBTB Campaign, participation in Wilkinsburg Housing group, support for Pittsburgh Foundation Day of Giving for the SMM Ministry Center (\$5450 – donations and match), and participation in course and conversations on race offered by St. Mary of the Mount parish.
2. Monthly Collections: Oct. toilet paper; Nov. – stuffing mix, and Dec. – laundry detergent
3. Letter Writing:
  - letter to the Bishop asking that every parish do some education on the subject of race relations (This letter could be from individuals or from the committee as a whole),
  - Bread for the World annual offering of letters could be brought up at the offertory in September of October.
  - Something related to voting access. Lois offered to research this topic.
    - Sept. 26-27: Topic: Encouraging educational efforts on racism in the parishes; Writer - Holly
    - Oct. 24-25: Topic: Offering of Letters - Hunger; Writer - Joyce
    - Nov. 21-22: Topic: to be determined at Nov. 4 meeting; Writer - \_\_\_\_\_(possible T.Y. to first responders; Joyce will ask some others for possible topics of concern among our African American parishioners)

Shared Letter Writing: Sacred Heart/St. Raphael & St. Benedict's - Joyce reported that she spoke with Fred Just from Sacred Heart and there is interest. It was suggested that we reach out to Greta Stokes Tucker or Veronica Morgan Lee at St. Benedict the Moor.

4. Anti-Racism Education at St. Mary Magdalene Parish and Its Relationship to the Cultural Action Team
  - A. Website – it was suggested that we identify some additional resources on the Pax Christi website. Holly will identify some entries for the bulletin
  - B. Event on Sat., Sept. 26 from 1 – 3 PM on St. Bede's Lawn
  - C. Showing of Fr. Massingale talk – possibly have on a zoom during October on the weekend we focus on anti-racism. (Please pray for Fr. Massingale – he is very ill.)
  - D. At our next meeting we will discuss setting up conversations on race similar to those currently being held by St. Mary of the Mount. Holly shared that they are a lot of work.
5. Community Outreach Updates
  - A. The Sanctuary Project: No report.
  - B. Wilkinsburg Housing Effort: Lois reported that the group has resumed meeting. They are looking at both tenant and landlord issues. Their goals include: 1) keep people in their homes; 2) get people ready (credit for becoming home owners with the possible use of Section 8); 3) identify organizations that can help people to purchase a home
  - C. Poor People's Campaign: Joyce has been participating on the PA faith leaders PPC zoom meetings and would like to bring the idea of a town hall for people to hear the voices of people in Wilkinsburg to the Sanctuary Project at their next meeting.
  - D. Penn Joint Water Authority: Lois reported that funding is being sought for customer assistance and there is concern about lead levels in the water caused by line replacements.

6. Stop Banking the Bomb Campaign Petition: [www.abetterpncbnk.org](http://www.abetterpncbnk.org)

Please sign and ask others to as well.

Upcoming pickets: Sat., Sept. 19 at 11 AM at Squirrel Hill PNC, 5810 Forbes Ave.

Fri., Oct. 2, 11:30 AM at PNC headquarters, downtown

Sat., Oct. 17 at 11 AM at PNC in South Side, 18<sup>th</sup> and E. Carson St.

7. Report on Guidelines for the parish related to reducing single use plastics: Anne reported that some of the funds from a grant received in Wilkinsburg will allow for the purchase of bags to replace the plastic ones currently being used at the pantries. A plan for reduction in the parish use of plastics has been delayed.

8. Fall Elections/Voter Registration Update: Over 200 applications for mail in ballots have been distributed at our pantries and our parish. This month we will be distributing info from the League of Women voters and taking voter registrations. Weather permitting, we will plan for tables outside of our churches the weekend of Sept. 26-27 to have election materials available: registration forms, mail in ballot applications, info from the League of Women voters (Lois will do the 4 PM; Joyce for 9 AM; will ask Mary Jean for 11 AM Mass.)

9. Respect Life Month: Fred Just for taped mass and three Masses for one of the weekend's in October to speak on Catholic social teaching. Fred is available. Joyce will check with Fr. Tom. (postponed from last April)

Four 4 weekend focus on 4 issues – bulletin, newsletter, prayers of the faithful (beginning and end of life issues; race; LGBTQ dignity; human rights); Joyce will ask Mary Jean and Linda Burns to help)

Possible resources - guidelines for elections – see APP document; showing of James Martin talk about LGBT Catholics

Announcements: First meeting of the Global Solidarity Committee – Tues., Set. 22, 7:30 PM via zoom. Link on SMM website. Upcoming APP Talks – Oct. 14 and Nov. 16 at 7 PM; Other: Moving the Money Campaign started in Pittsburgh aimed at lowering the military budget and shifting the money to unmet human needs. Joyce is participating. More info at next meeting.

**Next Meeting: Wed., Nov. 4 at 7 PM**