

# St Francis Social Justice

Thursday November 19th 2020 6:30PM/via zoom

Present: Lynn Carroll, Paula Rush, Marianne Rundall, Sister Chris, Zita Cashin, Cindy Malloy, Cindy Staron, Anne Schulte, Mark & Elly Mack.

## Agenda

1. **Opening prayer** - Justice prayer
2. **Thanksgiving food drive** - Cindy Staron came to talk about the new program this year. Father Alan asked her guidance because of her work with the Food Box. Food items will be collected at the Thanksgiving mass this year and then taken to the Food Box on Friday at 9AM. Mark and Paula will be there to help Dave and Cindy with taking the food. We will also have a table with signs in the narthex for people to put their items.
3. **House of Compassion** - Paula served 38 people in November at the House of Compassion. Also the group from St Mary's who served at the HOC for over 20 years have decided to no longer volunteer. Elly talked to HOC to let them know not to put them on the schedule for next year. Elly will call and talk to Marina and to have her call if they will need extra help due to the loss of Bob Maile's group.
4. **Last Watch Update** - Lynn had a meeting scheduled for tonight but no attendance via zoom.
5. **4th Sunday Collections** - November 21st-22nd will be for Retired Religious. December for Mary's Meals. This will possibly be changed for next year. Also January is normally for Birthright but since they are no longer in existence, the collection will be for Guiding Star.
6. **Racial Relations meetings** - The group continues to meet every two weeks with good discussion. We are using the book "Be the Bridge" as our guide for discussion.
7. **Sister Parish update** - We have about 38 people who will be participating in the prayer partner program. Because of the fear of a hurricane this week we had to postpone our zoom meeting until next week. We will finalize the Twinning Agreement and continue our discussion regarding projects. The latest is regarding water filters for one of the cantons. Gary Pursillo has joined the group and is offering some technical support in this area.
8. **Giving tree** - Trees are up in St Henry's and a tree will go up at St Mary's this week. The location is still up for discussion. Due to Covid and people maybe not feeling comfortable coming to church but still wanting to participate, they

will have tags at the church office and people can call and sign up that way. They also need 22, \$30 gift cards to Walmart. Zita will try to get them via Script. Marianne and Zita did all of the gift tags on their own this year. December 18th from 2-5pm they will move all the presents down to the lower level of the Faith Formation office. December 19th will be the distribution of the gifts. They will need volunteers on both dates.

9. **Christmas Boxes** - Anne said we currently have 4 families from St Francis, but Sister said she has several more names that she will give to Yessi. She will give the first and last names of the adults in the family to the Emergency Food Box so they can cross check names with the Salvation Army. We will need volunteers to distribute the food boxes on December 15th, Anne will coordinate that.
10. **New Calendar** - Paula has put next year's calendar on a PDF file and will send out to everyone to have them print them on their own. She included the person in charge of the HOC from our committee on the calendar also.
11. **Misc** - Lynn shared she is on the Decat committee in the community and they are looking at food insecurity. They plan to use some of their money to try to teach people about healthy cooking. One of the methods will be to use crock pots which they will give to families with the recipes and ingredients to make the items. The other item Lynn brought up which resulted in a lot of discussion was the concern voiced by many people on the committee of the number of people disconnected to the church. The people they were most concerned with were the elderly in the community, people in assisted living or nursing homes or people in poverty who don't have the means to stay connected electronically and if they don't feel they are safe to come to church due to Covid. We felt this is a subject that should be brought up to Parish Council. Even after Covid, they feel there will be needs to reach out to parishioners. The concern is they feel many parishioners may feel forgotten by their church during these difficult times.

**Next Meeting** Normally we would have a Christmas party, so we will have a party via zoom. Sister Chris will be in charge and we are all to bring a "virtual white elephant" gift.

Respectfully submitted

Elly Mack