**Social Concerns Committee Minutes**

**Prayer Room, Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 1:00 pm**

Attendees: Mary Haggard, Sharon Armstrong, Jane Berkeley, Cheryl Sedlak, Georgene Cooper, Jeanette Nappier

* Opening prayer
* Advocacy: USCCB request [click here](https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/Campaigns/107829/Respond)
  + for passing a budget to avoid government shut down which furloughs employees who need paycheck for essential living expense
  + more just treatment of unaccompanied minors at southern border
* Creation Care: Jeanette, Sharon
  + The task list from the *The Letter* video screening follows these minutes
  + The Litter Pilgrimage was successful in spite of the poor weather; 6 students and 4 adults from St. Chris prevented about 10 bags of litter from being washed through the storm sewer system into Lake Erie; the task list follows these minutes
  + A meeting will be scheduled with Mary Meler to discuss possibly inviting Rust Belt Riders to give a presentation
  + *Laudato Deum* [click here for document](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html)
    - Apostolic Exhortation issued Oct 4 by Pope Francis
    - Highlights the US contribution to climate change as 2 times China and 7 times less developed world on an individual basis
    - Sense of urgency, calls the situation climate crisis
    - Written to remind the world that “…when human beings claim to take God’s place, they become their own worst enemies.” (LD 73)
  + Communities such as Rocky River are responsible for a larger share of climate changing green house gas than the US average
  + Biggest green house gas contributions come from flying in airplanes and eating meat, especially beef
  + Lament
    - Set date between March 13 & 22: Sharon
    - Copy of last year’s program will be revised: Jeanette
* Halloween Candy: Kathy, Jane
  + The collection went smoothly but was smaller than in previous years
  + Some candy will go to the Rocky River Assistance Program
  + Candy is currently with Mary Meler
* Thanksgiving Food Collection: Mary, Maggie, Mary Ellen, Sharon
  + Request list expanded to include pies, potatoes, apples, canned cranberries, rolls, corn, beans, brownies, butter (from committee members)
  + Information has appeared in bulletin, St Chris News and the new TV in Gathering area
  + Collection dates are November 18 & 19
  + Sr. Marilyn Nickol at St. Colman recommended taking the food to the distribution center at St. Pat Bridge; they enthusiastically accepted the offer of food from this collection
  + Delivery scheduled for 9:00 Nov 20. **At least one additional driver needed**.
  + Coordinated delivery location/time with school collection
* GIFT Program: Rose Mary, Jane, Rita
  + Need additional volunteers on distribution day to supervise young helpers, take pictures etc.
  + Preparation of the tags is going well
* Basket Raffle: Maggie, Jeanette
  + Will put an announcement in bulletin, etc. asking for volunteers to help organize
  + Zellie’s House will receive the proceeds from raffle
  + Sharon will set date for raffle drawing during Soup Supper
* Social Concerns Calendar: Jeanette’s work in progress
* Teams: Jeanette
  + Will contact Terri to arrange to do the January 2 meeting in a mixed in-person and video format using Teams
  + February and March meetings will be on Teams exclusively
* Liaison Reports
  + Ladies Guild: Georgene
    - Guild will focus on events and service, not fund raising
    - Little Flower has sent 11 congratulatory cards in October and 85 during year
    - Planning Mass for ladies of parish
  + Parish Council: Cheryl
    - The Diocese has paired St. Chris and St. Angela's to plan for Catholic education in this area of the Westside for the future.  (The Diocese called this "KEEPING THE FAITH")
    - EdChoice Expansion Program/Angel Fund- There will be a tuition increase next year ($6,100), the subsidy from parish will be lower.  Money from the Angel Fund ($750) will help to defray the cost per child.
    - Fr. John will continue to oversee St. James and St. Clemens parishes.
    - Time was set aside for Council members to discuss the Diocesan policy "Parish & School Policy on Issues of Sexuality and Gender Identity".  Some members were adamantly but respectfully against the policy hoping that it might be revised in the future.
* Closing Prayer: Georgene
* Next meeting December 5, 2023 at 1:00 pm in the Prayer Room

Respectfullysubmitted,

November 8, 2023

Jeanette Nappier

**Video Task List**

* Download video to computer being careful to avoid copyright infringement
* Watch video
* Schedule room with Dawn
* Call John, 440-829-9351, about upcoming event and room configuration, AV equipment, etc
* Write announcement and send email to Dawn and Terri at least two weeks before event
* Remind Jeanette to ask priests for announcement at Mass
* About 2 days before event check with John to confirm details and schedule a practice run
* The day before the event have a practice run
* Show video on the schedule day
* Take pictures
* Write a Bell Tower beacon article
* Report to the SCC

**Litter Pilgrimage Task List**

**August:**

* Choose date for Saturday morning in mid-October
* Contact St Marilyn Nickol at St. Colman Parish mnickol@csjoseph.org
* for permission to assemble in the area outside the front of their church
  + use their parking lot off of Lawn Avenue
  + use their dumpster for trash disposal.
* Make flyer and write bulletin announcement
* Inform Sharon Armstrong during mid-August about the upcoming litter pilgrimage so she can include it on the volunteer list for the Confirmation class
* Coordinate with the West Side Creation Care Team if appropriate

**September:**

* Send bulletin announcement and flyer to Terri, Dawn, Sharon and Mary Meler to invite parishioners and students to participate

**October:**

* Procure bags and opening and closing prayer (suggestion: use opening prayer from SCC)
* Lead the event:
  + Opening prayer
  + Have participants introduce themselves to each other
  + Describe the environmental significance of picking up litter, especially plastics (plastics degrade into microparticles that contaminate air and water)
  + Divide the group into small groups of about six people each
  + Assign a route to each group
  + Take pictures of students picking up litter
  + Have group return to front of St. Colman in about an hour
  + Take group picture
  + Lead final prayer
  + Take trash to dumpster
  + Thank participants
* Send information about the event with pictures to Lori Anderson for the Bell Tower beacon
* Update task list
* Report to Social Concerns Committee