

Social Justice Committee Minutes – Oct. 4, 2011

Meeting opened with Evening Prayer in the Chapel at 6:30 PM, followed by a presentation about the new Roman Missal and the changes that will be coming.

Members attending – Deb Hoppa, Deacon Peter Burek and Terry Delavan.

Subcommittee Reports –

Deacon Peter advised that he has received no feedback from the bulletin insert from the USCCB. He also advised that per discussion at the last meeting, the Eastside Parishes will not be participating officially in NAOMI for the upcoming year. Individual members are still invited to participate in the group's activities as they see fit, but there will be no financial support at this time.

New Business –

The Stewardship Committee has asked the individual committees to identify subcommittee chairpersons and provide contact information. Terry will send these out to the subcommittee members and have them returned to the parish.

Father Bill has asked the Social Justice committee to promote the agenda of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference. The five bishops have come out with their 2011 Public Policy Positions. We will be focusing on one item each month, beginning with "Life and Dignity of the Human Person" to coincide with the 40 Days for Life campaign. Terry will give Phyllis the information to be placed in the bulletin each month. The full document can be accessed at www.wisconsincatholic.org.

The Empty Bowls fundraiser for The Neighbor's Place will take place on Oct. 22nd from 11 AM to 2 PM at the Rose Garden. The \$10 donation helps to fund programs in Marathon County to feed those in need and raise awareness of hunger and poverty in our communities. Terry will contact Phyllis to put an advertisement in the bulletin for this worthwhile cause.

Discussion was held about The Neighbor's Place Christmas Assistance Program. Several religious education classes participated with this last year and sponsored the Angel Tree. Deacon Peter will pursue this to get a sponsor again. Last year was the first time that The Neighbor's Place was able to give a gift to every person who requested this assistance.

Deb Hoppa advised that Catholic Charities is experiencing increased usage of services. The utility assistance program has been very busy, and they have found that people are coming in for even the basic necessities, including toilet paper.

The meeting closed with a prayer by Thomas Merton entitled "Nonviolent Alternative."

Next meeting – Nov. 1, 2011 at 6:30 PM