

Social Justice Committee Minutes – January 3, 2012

The meeting opened with Evening Prayer in the chapel at 6:30, followed by committee meetings.

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

Subcommittee Reports –

Signs prohibiting weapons have been placed on both churches but have not yet gone up on the other parish buildings.

Connie Michlig advised via email that several boxes of Christmas donations were given to Northcentral Health Care Center, as well as 2 large afghans. Parishioners were very generous this year.

Barb Mullen advised via email that this Saturday, January 7th, will be the next time Eastside Parishes will be serving the noon meal at the Salvation Army. She said there was an amazing response to requests for Bell Ringing this year – over 40 families from the two parishes participated.

Bruce Chopp advised via email that the Weston Board turned down holding a spring referendum on bus transportation there, and Schofield backed out of its participation. The Community Foundation decided not to grant the request for matching funds. Everyone Has a Place raised over \$18,000 in 3½ weeks for this initiative and they are committed to using the funds for transportation. The Community Foundation told them to come up with an alternate plan and they would reconsider matching funds. Everyone Has a Place will meet soon to discuss this.

The Right to Life Signature Ad will be coming up in the next few weeks at both parishes. Phil and Cathy Hackel have coordinated this in the past and will be looking for someone to do this in the future.

Deacon Peter advised that finances are strained at this time. Donations are down at both parishes, probably due to the economy. Parish assessments to the diocese must still be met at previous levels so it is unsure where cuts must be made.

Mike Meverden advised that Lent is earlier this year. There will be a meeting soon about the Wednesday Soup Suppers. Deacon Peter suggested that the Social Justice Committee members again consider serving at one of these events and there was unanimous agreement.

Deb Hoppa advised that Catholic Charities has been very busy with its food pantry, winter coat program and basic needs program. They do not have their yearly budget yet. There is a significant need for non-perishable food, toilet paper and diapers. They are open 9 to 3 Monday – Thursday and 9 to noon on Fridays. Monetary donations to the local office need to be in the form of gift cards, since cash or checks must be sent to the diocese to be processed. Deb will work on a wish list to be placed in the bulletin.

Deacon Peter closed the meeting with a prayer for the journey by Thomas Merton.

Next meeting – Feb. 7, 2012