The Committee for Justice Peace and the Integrity of Creation
The Church of St. Mary
Wednesday, December 12, 2018 -- 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Lee Ann Sticha (chairperson), Rita von Holtum, Tom Lenertz, Rita Winters, Tammy Boushek, Suzanne Sudmeier, Gayle Walz, Father Steve, Gloria Deick. Absent: Julie DeSautels, Tabatha Odens. Others present: Ken Howell

Minutes --Gloria volunteered to do the minutes for this month.

Gayle led us in prayer and reflection.

Lee Ann said that she will be in Arizona during the months of January, February and March. She has made arrangements for Tammy Boushek to lead the meetings in her absence. Lee Ann will still be involved in setting the agendas and will join our meetings via phone during those months.

Sanctity of Life—In Julie's absence, there was no report.

Parish Pastoral Council Update—Rita Winters said that a procedural facilities review has been done. Reorganizing of parishes is still not finalized and they are still making changes. She said that Tabatha did give a report to the Parish Pastoral Council about the Global Community Partnership initiative and the council did not have any questions.

Fair Trade Booth—Gloria reported that Shelby was very pleased with the parish response and it was a very good sale. We would like to make this an annual event. Depending on Shelby's schedule, a comparable Sunday next year seems to work well for the parish.

November Food Shelf Drive—Gayle reported that the last report she had from Vicki was that the parish donated 5315 lbs. of food and $5,324.85 during this drive. She ordered 250 more bags @ 1.66 each. That was the quantity that gave us the best price break.

Homelessness Meetings—Lee Ann has received correspondence about grants available through West Central Minnesota Continuum of Care that would support about 60 households in the region. Meetings will be held in various communities including Alexandria beginning in January. Tammy will be getting more information on this and will share it with us.

2019 Advocacy for the Common Good – Ken reported that he has been in touch with Katie Powell at JRLC. They have scheduled a presentation on Thursday, January 10, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. JRLC is the sponsor of this event and JPIC/St. Mary's is hosting it. Ken has e-mailed us a flyer/poster. It will need to be adapted to landscape format in order to have it displayed on the church monitors. Ken suggested that a welcome be given by either Fr. Steve or Sr. Rita to include how advocacy and scripture are tied together. He would introduce Katie and explain the difference between advocacy and partisanship. (He uses a book by Bernie Evans "*Vote Catholic*?" as a resource for this.) Ken will get posters out to other churches and Tammy will get it to the Ministerial Association. She recommends personal follow-up with churches also. Ken will do bulletin announcements for the weekends of December 29-30 and January 5-6; he will also check into getting in the *Echo Press.* He will also get copies of the poster to Inclusion Network, West Central Community Action, United Way, and Habitat for Humanity. Suzanne and Tammy will look for volunteers from Daughters of Isabella to serve refreshments.

Serving Soup at Common Ground – December 18 – This is an event occurring each Tuesday evening. Lee Ann did visit it last night. She said they serve two types of soup to about 15-20 people between 5:30 and 7:00. JPIC has volunteered for Tuesday, December 18. Lee Ann will bring chili and Suzanne will bring chicken noodle soup. Common Ground will provide the accompaniments for the soup as well as dishes/silverware so all we need to provide is the soup and volunteers. Volunteers should be there by 5:15; a couple of people should be there to serve

and a couple to welcome and mingle. Tom, Rita V., and Gloria will be there. Tammy & Rita W may be able to come later. Primary responsibility for promotion is Common Ground, but Fr. Steve will put a copy of their flyer on our bulletin board.

Global Community Partnership Meeting – A trip to Guatemala is being planned for April 29 to May 7, 2019. The trip was announced in last weekend's bulletin and will be included as space allows in future bulletins. Rita and Lee Ann are working on information that will be sent to interested people to be followed up by orientation meetings. People will need to know cost info in order to make their decision. We hope to have plans for the trip finalized by the end of January. Lee Ann is the contact person for those who want to sign up.

Other: Community Poverty Simulation – This will be held March 14 at ATCC. Tammy will help promote this and United Way will be in charge of registration.

Other: Catholics at the Capitol will be 2/19/19. A bus will be provided. Bernie Evans has worked with this in the past and will likely be the contact person again. Fr. Steve also forwarded the info to Bruce Becker (Sanctity of Life Committee).

Other: Environmental/Trees – This will be on our January agenda as Environmental Awareness. Last year we gave away 75 trees and Tom thought that was about the right amount. We will look at doing this on a weekend in April, but final date will depend on when the trees are available. We will discuss how we can broaden our focus on the environment from just the trees. At some point, Suzanne wants to open the discussion to include a review of the movie *Bag It* (about the use of plastics) and maybe include someone from Douglas/Pope County Waste Management.

U. S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter Against Racism – Lee Ann referred us to this article from *The Visitor.* Addressing racism is on our strategic plan so this is timely. Where do we go from here? Rita volunteered to draft a plan for us to review.

(I left meeting at this point at 3:00). Only remaining item was closing prayer.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, January 9, at 1:30 PM**

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Deick

Issues Bin: (not updated at this meeting but carried over from earlier meeting)

- Racial Justice
- Environmental activity
- Death penalty
- Reconciliation
- Poverty