

JPIC Meeting Notes – 02/12/2025

Committee Members Present: Sister Rita, Father Dan, Jan Duhnke, Kathy Fischer, Julie Desautels, LeeAnn Sticha (via phone)

Opening Prayer: LeeAnn

Topics of Discussion: Suzanne Sudmeier who is in charge of the coffee cart asked Sister Rita if JPIC could write an article in the bulletin about the cart. She suggested that it be about the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers. This started a discussion about what goes into the bulletins and how can JPIC have more of a presence in them. Could there be a “Social Justice” section in the bulletin?

Sister Rita handed out copies of the Minnesota Bishops’ Immigration Statement that was made public at the Minnesota Catholic Conference on February 6, 2025. The statement was signed by eight Minnesota bishops, including Archbishop Bernard Hebda and our Bishop Neary.

We discussed ways JPIC could make our parish more aware of the plight of immigrants. Some suggestions were: Hold an ecumenical prayer service focused on immigrants. Invite a speaker to talk about immigrants at the weekend Masses. Have Father Dan work immigrants into his homilies. Gather stories from immigrants in our community. Father Dan offered to bring this up at the Alexandria Ministerial Assoc. meetings. Sister Rita mentioned a possible speaker – John Keller a lawyer with the Immigrant Law Center. He has spoken at our parish in the past. Jan Duhnke mentioned having one of the Sisters from the convent in Little Falls speak.

We also discussed the divide within our parish currently and how JPIC can communicate better to lessen the divide. Sister Rita suggested that she and Jan Duhnke put together an agenda or fact sheet to address this.

We decided that we need to prioritize topics for the bulletin and further discuss this with Joe Korkowski and Father Dan. We will address Suzanne Sudmeier’s request at a later time.

Parish Council: Have someone from JPIC speak at Parish Council meetings to update them on what JPIC is doing. Father Dan said he would give a report on JPIC at the next Parish Council meeting.

Coffee and Rolls: JPIC was asked to help with coffee and rolls after Masses one weekend in April. Sister Rita will let Brenda Becker know if we will do this.

Life Connections & Sanctity of Life: Julie reported that these groups will sponsor a free “awareness dinner” on the evening of May 4, 2025 in the Great Hall as a kick-off for the Mothers’ in Need, Catholic Bishop’s initiative. Other things they are working on include: Creating a poster to put in the church bathrooms, adding a changing table in the men’s bathroom, and continuing to help families with rent money, diapers and clothing.

San Juan Mirador: LeeAnn gave her report via phone. She recently put information in the bulletin about a new trip to San Juan Mirador scheduled for June 4-10, 2025 that parishioners can sign up for. She continues to put videos in the bulletin and in the St. Mary’s email blast about the mission.

Final Discussion Topic: We concluded the meeting with a further discussion about adding a section in the bulletin for committee reports. Some members remembered that we had sections in the bulletin called “Voices of the Parish” and “About Life.”

Closing Prayer: Sister Rita