

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE MEETING MINUTES 2018 FEBRUARY 13**

### **Blanket Exercise Update**

#### **February 27, 2018 from 6-9pm in the Parish Hall**

The committee thanked Cathie for her advocacy to make the Blanket Exercise a success. We are grateful Cathie was able to work in partnership with the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League at the Parish to fully fund the Blanket Exercise – both groups donated \$200. As a result, members of the Parish can attend for free.

To date, Cathie said that 22 members of the Parish had signed up for the Blanket Exercise. She thinks that we will be able to fill the 40 spots from within the Parish. If there are extra spots available then we can contact NECC or Kings College to advertise ticket availability.

There are several things Sister Kathleen would like the Social Justice committee to bring to the Blanket Exercise, as follows:

- Name tags (Cathie)
- Flipchart (in parish upstairs)
- Microphone and lectern. The chairs need to be set up in a circle on the outside of the blanket space
- (Cathie is checking with Rod Mwaka and the Parish office)
- Kleenex (Teresa Ford)
- Water and glasses (available in the kitchen) Note – no snacks or food will be allowed until the end of the exercise
- Break time snacks (Carole and Mary Ann) and coffee and cream (Larry McKenzie)
- Teresa Ford has volunteered to take home the flip chart notes and type them up. After each Blanket Exercise, there is feedback from participants that is captured about the lessons learned from the event and how to take action.

Cathie had asked for volunteers to linger at the end of each mass (for this past weekend) in case there are any parishioners with questions about the blanket exercise. The sign up package is at the information desk. I am not sure if this will be required for masses this coming weekend.

She suggests just to take a minute or two to stand at the desk for a short time while people exit. She left 19 registrations forms. That is two more than our goal of 40 allows but we have at least one maybe. Unfortunately that meant removing the information sheets since registrations form were printed on the back of them. All that is left now are the pink forms. Thanks to Carole for setting up the signage and the box to receive the forms.

## **Euchre Tournament & Refugee Committee Update – Sister Maria**

Hopefully the Euchre Tournament was a huge success on Saturday, February 17. Sister Maria reports that the Syrian family of three has had an excellent launch and is now a family of four. After only 18 months in Canada they are successfully integrating - the father has a permanent job and is off Ontario Works.

## **Development & Peace – Solidarity Sunday is March 17-18**

James McDermott sends this report regarding the Development and Peace Share Lent Campaign.

On Saturday and Sunday February 10 and 11 The Share Lent Solidarity Calendar was inserted in The Parish Bulletin. The 2018 Share lent Theme is "Together For PEACE"

In these troubled times, often characterized by fear of others, hatred and violence, it is our duty to find the path to unity. But where to start? Which path to follow? How do we build a better world?

A short time ago Pope Francis reminded us that:

"If there is one word that we should never tire of it is this: Dialogue."

On Saturday and Sunday March 10 and 11, Share lent envelopes will be inserted in the Bulletin. These envelopes will offer Parishioners the opportunity to support financially the work of Development and Peace Canada around the World.

On Solidarity Sunday, Saturday and Sunday March 17 and 18, parishioners can return their Envelopes to the Parish.

On Solidarity Sunday the Symbols of the 2018 Share lent Campaign will be displayed in front of the Altar. This year's symbols are: (1) A drawing of a bridge – which implies a bridge between people and dialogue.

(2) A branch from a tree which represents, An Olive Branch, long a Symbol of Peace and Christianity.

(3) An agreement. This piece of paper with the word "AGREEMENT" on it, represents the outcome of a peace negotiation, and the hope that a lasting and durable peace can be created.

A narrator will explain to the Parishioners the Meaning of all the Symbols. James will prepare a written script and look after providing the Symbols on Solidarity Sunday for the narrators and bulletin Inserts.

At each mass on Solidarity Sunday, March 17 and 18. James needs four volunteers from the Social Justice Committee to be narrators at each mass. He will provide a short script to be read by the Narrators about the meaning of the Symbols. The reading will take approximately 3 minutes, read slowly, prior to commencement of Mass from the Ambio.

Stephanie can read on March 18th at the 10:30 Mass.

Cathie can help at the 8:30 mass.

## **Other Business**

Fr. Murray is requesting that the Social Justice Committee lead the Stations of the Cross on some Friday during Lent to support Development and Peace. Cathie and Stephanie have both volunteered to do one Friday each.

We discussed hosting an all candidates meeting at the Parish. It was thought more likely to be something to plan for with the upcoming municipal election that kicks off on May 1. Mary Ann is willing to organize a municipal All Candidate meeting at the Parish.

Teresa Ford is looking into an opportunity to write about plant-based eating in the Parish newsletter. She is working with Carmen Gicante on a submission about this topic.

Citizens for Public Justice is a activist group recommended by Larry. He said they have an excellent [ecology suggestions for Lent](#). Teresa Ford has provided some excellent local information about how to recycle plastics. The program's website <https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/> lists which stores are participating, but indicates we need to contact each store to determine which plastic films are contracted for pick up/recycling. At some stores it will be plastic grocery bags, only. The store manager at Loblaws at Fanshawe and Richmond said they have a contract for the collection of everything listed on the site, which I summarized on the attached document.

Teresa also recommends a Taize prayer session on Mondays at King's College. If you're unfamiliar with Taize, their webpage notes, "at the heart of it is a simple form of meditative prayer consisting of simple harmonically-rich chants, silence, scripture, and prayers of intercession." From time to time at the 8:30 mass at St. Mike's we sing some of these chants. Click [here](#) the King's College schedule. It takes place in Christ the King Chapel, Wemple Hall from 7-8 pm generally on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from September to May.

Doug Manners would like all Parish committees to advise the office of our date requests for events in 2018-2019 by April 23 to try and ensure our requests can be met.

Next Meeting, March 13, 2018. Mary Ann Colihan will chair. Sister Maria will prepare the prayer.