

MINUTES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING 2018 04 10

PRESENT:

L. McKenzie, S. Scollard, C. Scollard, C. Gauthier, Sr. Maria, Deacon Gaston, T. Ford, S. Gasparotto

The meeting began with Cathie leading a prayer, written by Sr. Joan Chittister, based on the Apostles' Creed.

BLANKET EXERCISE UPDATE:

As a follow-up to the Blanket Exercise Cathie has had a few suggestions from participants for books that are suitable reading on related topics. The N'Amerind Centre hosts a pot luck meal every second Monday. Ken Oliver at the centre can provide more information.

Despite several attempts via phone calls and email Charles has been unsuccessful at contacting anybody at the centre to discuss future liaison between the Social Justice Committee and the indigenous community through the centre. Larry will speak to Tina Stevens, who is involved with the blanket exercise, to see if there is another person at the centre that we may liaise with.

There was a brief discussion of Pope Francis' decision not to apologize to the indigenous people for the Church's role in residential schools. It was pointed out that in 2015, while in Bolivia, Pope Francis apologized to the indigenous peoples of **America** for previous wrongs. Also, it is felt among some Church leaders in Canada that there is deeper, more important, work taking place re reconciliation. Father Rosica's interview about Pope Francis not coming to Canada right now and the Canadian Catholic Bishops' Easter Letter to our indigenous Peoples. Both can be found at Salt and Light TV. Here is the reference:
<http://saltandlighttv.org/blogfeed/getpost.php?id=80556>

REFUGEE COMMITTEE:

Sr. Maria reported that there have been no new developments re the Karen family being sponsored by the parish nor the family being sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Sr. Maria also mentioned that there will soon be a need for baby-related goods for a newborn, as well as medical care. The wife of a man who had been previously sponsored but was not sponsored herself and had been living in the United States is pregnant and the baby is due in July. The wife has no medical coverage in Canada and hospital stays are in the \$2500/day range, without the cost related to pregnancy and birth. Teresa suggested that perhaps home birth with the assistance of a midwife might be a viable option. In any case, baby supplies of all kinds including furniture, diapers, clothes etc are going to be required.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE:

The committee received James McDermott's report on the recent Share Lent campaign. The amount collected through parish envelopes was \$2785 which James pointed out was in keeping with recent years. This does not include donations made directly to the Development and Peace organization. James expressed his openness to ideas to improve the response to the campaign.

The committee discussed possible solutions. Among these were having the educational brochures put in the bulletin as was done a few years ago rather than expecting them to be picked up at the back of the Church. Also, perhaps the elementary schools in the parish could be approached to see if their students might get involved in fundraising for Development and Peace.

It was also pointed out that although the collection for D&P has been consistent for the last couple of years it is down from what it was at one time. There is a feeling among committee members that we might be at the limit as far as collections within the parish are concerned.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayoral candidates meeting:

Deacon Gaston brought this suggestion up at the Parish Council and was informed that permission should be sought from the Bishop to host the meeting. Because it is not clear who should seek the permission Deacon Gaston will speak to Fr. Murray for clarification.

Bishop's Visit:

Bishop Fabbro will be making a pastoral visit to St. Michael's on April 21-22.

Social Justice Committee Terms of Reference:

Deacon Gaston led the committee through the information we are to provide to the Pastoral Team through the terms of reference. Charles will collate the required information and forward it.

Fall Newsletter:

Teresa is preparing an article for the Fall Newsletter on ways that the spirit of Laudato Si may be implemented.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on May 8th. Stephanie will chair the meeting and Sr. Maria will prepare the prayer. In Charles' absence Cathie will take the minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm