

Holy Spirit Parish Christian Service Commission
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 24, 2020
6:30 pm

CSC Mission: Share God's love through action, education, and community building.

GOALS

1. Encourage all parishioners to strive for peace, justice and equality.
2. Provide opportunities for parishioners to share their God-given gifts with individuals coping with difficult situations
3. Educate parishioners about Catholic social justice.
4. Build community partnerships to better serve others and promote the Kingdom of God

Those in attendance: Rick Lopes, Loren Darby, Dave Stukey, Justin Bishop, Taffy Cochran, Pat Hilgendorf, and Cindy Eultgen

We opened with the Our Father prayer.

Old Business

- A. Cindy shared responses to questions CSC members had at a previous meeting regarding finances:
 1. Difference between two accounts listed on the financial statement #83 and #84
 - a. #83 is earmarked for items concerning Education
 - b. #83 is earmarked for items concerning Hospitality
 2. Parish Relief Income and Expense Breakdown for January through today (*See Table Below*)

Item	Explanation	Amount
Gasoline	Maximum paid is \$25/request	\$ 215.00
Rent	Assistance with payment of rent	\$ 1,200.00
Utilities	Assistance with payment of utilities	\$ 202.00
Emergency Housing	For hotel/motel stays when stranded and can't get lodging in a shelter	\$ 540.00
Food	Rocky Boy	\$ 650.00
Rocky Boy	Related to the destruction of their building in a fire	\$ 1,580.00
Special Requests	This request was for 2 Car Seats	\$ 130.00
My Student in Need	Miscellaneous request for student assistance	\$ 600.00
St. Jude Conference	Distribution for diapers	\$ 1,000.00
Children's Receiving Home	Distribution for any need	\$ 1,000.00
St. Vincent DePaul	Distribution for Food	\$ 1,000.00
Opportunities Incorporated	Distribution for Misc. needs when grants don't apply*	\$ 2,442.00

*utilities 958, rent 800, mortgage 323, emergency housing 361

3. Three accounts are broken down on the budget, but not distinguished on the Profit and Loss. They are larger and used by all, therefore, CSC uses a portion.

- B. **St. Jude Pantry** – St. Jude food pantry has now officially relocated to the old St. Peter and Paul School building in the corner closet of the gym by the east entrance door and parking lot.

- C. **Community Garden** – The garden is being watered and tended each day by volunteers who are on a schedule. It is growing and producing right on schedule.
- D. **Ministry to the Homebound** – Since we cannot proceed with in-person visits to the homebound due to the COVID-19 restrictions, there are phone calls being made to these individuals to ensure well-being and give them a chance to visit. Pat Hilgendorf shared her experiences visiting with those on her call list saying that they have been very appreciative of receiving these calls and have been eager to visit.

As a side note – the committee wondered if collections were still active for the **St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry**. Cindy let us know that it was still in place and items can be placed in the box located in the church entryway. Collection of items has been down, but still needed. Suggestion was made to put this in the bulletin to let parishioners know that this is ongoing and there are still needs for these items.

New Business:

- A. **Brainstorming of potential CSC members** – There was a question as to whether current members could stay on the commission. Cindy does welcome the continuation of membership on the commission. Members present were polled to find out interest in continuing – Loren, Taffy and Justin expressed interest in continuing. Names of possible members to be contacted are Kate Triplett, John or Eileen Gort, and Julie Korb (who hasn't been approached yet).
- B. **Legislation** – There was a discussion regarding how to let parishioners know about upcoming and ongoing legislative issues, both Federal and State. Questions as to content, how to distribute, and where to distribute came up. Cindy had a document titled “*Diocesan Policy on Advocacy, Lobbying, and Political Action*” which was recently published jointly between the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings and the Diocese of Helena. This outlines practical policies on advocacy, lobbying and political action taking into account the requirements imposed because of the Church's tax exempt 501(c)(3) status and to clarify what is allowed on both an individual and an institutional basis.

It was stated that most parishioners have access to computers – but not all parishioners do and that a fact sheet regarding certain issues can be made (and possibly included in the church bulletin) to at least provide awareness. Facebook and other social media can also be utilized as well as flyers placed at tables at our Fellowship Dinners once we are allowed to gather in the future. Question was raised as to how to approach without exceeding our boundaries and to provide facts regarding church teaching and moral issues without it being politicized.

Cindy suggested resources from Matt Brower who is the Executive Director at the Montana Catholic Conference. The website for the Montana Catholic Conference <http://www.montanacc.org/> is a great Catholic source for a variety of issues.

- C. Cindy had sent information on “Open Wide Our Hearts” with the meeting information. This opened up a discussion of the need for education and information regarding race relations. Montana does not have many black citizens (current events regarding of Black Lives Matter have been in the news), but we do have a large Native American population that could possibly be a source of racial tensions among our citizens. Question from Cindy is – do we want to establish some form or way (a group?) to promote education and begin discussions on racial issues? More discussion to come at the next meeting.

We will be taking a hiatus during the summer months with the next meeting being scheduled in September.

The meeting closed with the “Prayer for Solidarity”.