

**Holy Spirit Parish Christian Service Commission**  
**Special Meeting of the Christian Service Commission**

**Tuesday, November 17, 2020**

**6:30 pm – Parish Hall**

***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
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Those in attendance: Justin Bishop, Taffy Cochran, Cindy Eultgen, Lori Durocher. In attendance via Zoom: Lorrin Darby and Pat Hilgendorf

The meeting was opened with the "Prayer for Meetings". All were given a copy per request from last month.

**UPDATES FROM OCTOBER MEETING**

**Walking with Moms:** Cindy reported that things are moving along. The October meeting went well and it seems a great deal of interest has been created around the idea of "Walking with Moms". Cindy also passed out a beautiful prayer card from the USCCB for this new endeavor. Their next meeting is November 19 at 4 p.m. in the parish hall via zoom or phone.

**Voices of Hope:** Taffy reported on research she has done into this program. Their website focuses on their primary mission of helping people experiencing an emotional crisis or having difficulty coping with a mental health problem; and those experiencing any form of domestic or sexual violence.

Digging deeper, however, they have a program called **Montana 2-1-1** which helps connect Montanans with the community resources and assistance they may need. Montana 2-1-1 has a website that lists these resources or a person can call 2-1-1 if no access to a computer is available. It is a free, anonymous service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The Montana 2-1-1 program would be a valuable resource to further our education on the resources available in our community. Training for volunteers who wish to be on the other end of these types of calls has been put on hold due to COVID-19.

**Strengths and Speaking:** Pat Hilgendorf explained her thoughts in utilizing the work that has been done in Strengthsfinders. The information has already been gathered from groups of participants at our parish. The hope is to fill the gaps with people who have the "Strengths" needed to fill those gaps. Specifically, *Christian Service Commission needs executers and influencers to move forward with some of the goals we are building.*

### **Additional conversation and discussion:**

Taffy brought up a ministry in our own parish – **St. Jude Conference**. We can support them by asking what they need right now. Cindy said she would talk with Elaine or a group member as they meet this week.

Lorin brought up that there are 600 children that are in foster care, a statistic from **Alliance for Youth**, a local organization that he and his wife Pat, belong to. They were astounded with the number for our area. The conversation then led to adoption (rather than the need for foster parents). **Catholic Social Services** (CSSMT) and their adoptive work. We talked about this as a viable way of assisting in the challenges of parenting to raise children to be productive citizens. Taffy has contact with Twila Costigan who is the director of CSSMT program in Helena. Taffy will contact Twila for more information regarding their needs and how we could support/assist/be involved. CCSMT is also a partner organization in the initiative Walking with Moms in Need.

The group then talked about the immediate needs of our Holy Spirit faith community. Lorin mentioned that he and his wife are pretty much homebound as they are among those who are potentially compromised. Perhaps we should be concentrating our efforts specifically on those in our community who are not attending church due to health factors. Could we, as a group, *find out who is not attending Mass in person*; find out if they are okay; and reach out as needed. Do folks know how to access some type of connection such as the parish bulletin and who to call. Possibly the bulletins could be posted to Facebook?

Right now – today’s discussion with further information by December should help us focus on specific areas to make the most difference. Each member of the group needs to invite someone to the next meeting and come ready to work and formulate more SMART Goals so we can move forward. We are still working on the goal of education as we move forward.

Cindy mentioned that Parish Relief is currently on hold but funds through the envelopes are still coming in.

The meeting closed with the “Prayer for Solidarity” and recitation of the Holy Spirit Parish Mission.

**Next meeting is December 15 at 6:30 p.m.**