



VISION

The Social Ministry Committee encompasses social outreach (faithful action) with spirituality (through Catholic Social Teaching formation), to integrate an awareness of social justice and charity into all aspects of parish life.

2023 YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

JUSTICE & PEACE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

[Justice And Peace | Sacred Heart Catholic Church \(sacredheartnorfolk.org\)](https://sacredheartnorfolk.org)

Monday, April 3rd, 2023, | 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm | Sacred Heart Church Commons

Attendees: Frank Murphy & Patricia Britz (Co-Chairs), Mike Stark, Francesca Smith, Allan Britz

Frank welcomed attendees. Guest speaker, Mary Clark, Eggleston C3, Program Coordinator sent her regrets. The goals of this meeting are to get some formation the Farm Bill, and updates on the Office of Black Catholics, the Office of Social Ministry at the Diocese, the PPC, and each Social Ministries.

Special intentions: Neil Walsh, Gar Housler, Fr. Paul, Pastor at Sacred Heart, and Fr. Fitho, Pastor at our twin parish, St. Gabriel, Haiti. Peace with Justice in Ukraine, and in the world, the victims of the Turkish and Syrian seism, dismantling racism, a stop to human trafficking, empowering the poor, respecting our environment, healing of the sick, care for our elders, the repose of the souls of our beloved departed, and the unborn.

OPENING PRAYER— we listened to a [Reflection](#) on Palm Sunday Gospel reading, the Lord's Passion, Gospel, *Matthew 27:11-54*

THE SIGNS OF THE TIME: Catholic Virginian. We highlighted the following articles.

[Day of Reflection focuses on Black Catholic Ministry](#)

[The diocesan Office for Black Catholics has a link to the African National Eucharistic Congress...](#)

[Tech teacher honored for out-of-this world lessons | Bishop Dedicates New Catholic Chairty Office](#)

[Dating crisis fuels freefall of Catholic marriages](#)

FORMATION

2023 CRS Farm Bill | Attendees watched a 9-minute Video at home and shared the following info. on the 5 International Food Aid Programs. Each farm bill has a unique title, and the current farm bill is called the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. It was enacted into law in December 2018 and expires in 2023.

Food for Peace | Patricia: The Office of Food for Peace (FFP) USAID provides emergency food assistance to vulnerable populations affected by natural disasters, such as droughts and floods, and complex emergencies, such as conflict.

McGovern-Dole Food for Education | Frank: This program provides for the donation of U.S. agricultural commodities, as well as financial and technical assistance, to support school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects. The key objective of the program is to reduce hunger and improve literacy and primary education, especially for girls.

The Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust (BEHT) | Francesca: Under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, the BEHT makes funds available to provide emergency food assistance to developing countries. When a food crisis arises and food aid is not available from other US government programs, the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize the release of funds from the trust to meet immediate needs. Cash in the trust provides the U.S. government with the flexibility to purchase appropriate U.S. commodities based on availability and specific needs.

The Farmer-to Farmer Program | Francesca: Under USAID, the John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter [Farmer-to-Farmer Program \(F2F\)](#) provides technical assistance from U.S. volunteers to farmers, farm groups,



VISION

The Social Ministry Committee encompasses social outreach (faithful action) with spirituality (through Catholic Social Teaching formation), to integrate an awareness of social justice and charity into all aspects of parish life.

2023 YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

agribusinesses and other agriculture sector institutions in developing and transitional countries with the goal of promoting sustainable improvements in food security, agricultural processing, production and marketing. The F2F leverages the expertise of volunteers from U.S. farms, universities, cooperatives, private agribusinesses and nonprofit farm organizations to respond to the local needs of host-country farmers and organizations.

Food for Progress | Patricia: Food for Progress projects trains farmers in animal and plant health, helps improve farming methods, develops road and utility systems, establishes producer cooperatives, provides microcredit, and develops agricultural value chains. Program participants includes private voluntary organizations, foreign governments, universities, and intergovernmental organizations.

DIOCESAN UPDATES

OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLICS Director | Fr. Tochi Iwuji

The African National Eucharistic Congress Mission Statement |The African National Eucharistic Congress (ANEC) shall bring together African Catholics in the United States to experience mutual support, renewal of their lives, sharing of their values and cultures; to draw attention to the social dimension of the Eucharist, and use the central place of the Eucharist to effect transformation in their lives, societies and nations; and to establish a national pastoral response for the growing and significantly underserved African Catholic population. ANEC is an initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop's Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church/Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (PCMRT) [African National Eucharistic Congress \(ANEC\) \(anec-us.org\)](http://anec-us.org)

OFFICE OF SOCIAL MINISTRIES Director | Tina Wandersee

Patricia read Tina Wandersee's report. OSM is preparing for the visit by Bishop Jean from the Diocese of Hinche, May 5-7, 2023, we are finalizing a date for a Social Minister Retreat in June and preparing for vicariate meetings with Social Ministers to get to know each other and find out what the particular needs and wants are of the parishes they are serving.

Bishop Knestout has been in a different parish nearly every day for the past two weeks for the Sacrament of Confirmation – as well he has been conducting some parish visits – which he does every 3 years (I believe) – as we turn the corner of this week – his focus will be on Holy Week. I would encourage anyone who receives the Catholic VA to review the many pages where he was featured, and it depicts where and what he has been out doing.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL | Frank gave a summary of the PPC meeting held Tuesday, March 28th. Amy Woods will be retiring from SH, April 30th after 27 years of service in the Richmond Diocese, including 22 years as Director of Religious Education at SH. She will be greatly missed by many families in the parish. Amy and her family will remain as parishioners at SH. Kijana Orton, Admin. Asst. left on Thursday for another position. An updated financial procedure has been sent to all ministries. The 4-day Lent Mission Initiative was very well planned. Attendance could have been better.

MINISTRY UPDATES WITH REPORTS

1. **BREAD FOR THE WORLD** | [Offering of Letters to Congress \(bread.org\)](http://bread.org) Mike shared that he is getting information on this ministry and working on details.
2. **CARE FOR CREATION** | Frank reported that this ministry met Monday, March 20th. A team of 13 volunteers including Fr. Jim, the largest group so far, cleaned our adopted part of Princess Anne Road, Saturday, March 4 with



VISION

The Social Ministry Committee encompasses social outreach (faithful action) with spirituality (through Catholic Social Teaching formation), to integrate an awareness of social justice and charity into all aspects of parish life.

2023 YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

the support of Keep Norfolk Beautiful. We picked up 75 pounds of trash including some recyclable. The next Clean the Street is scheduled for May 13th. Care for Creation will meet Monday, April 17th.

3. **CRS CHAPTER UPDATE & RICE BOWL** | Patricia reported that the Rice Bowl Collection during Lent went well. Amy involved the religious classes. There were bulletin notes, announcements, Constant Contacts, and volunteers to staff the CRS table. Parishioners had a choice for donations, electronic giving directly to CRS or Sacred Heart, envelopes placed in the collection baskets, and boxes in the large CRS box on the table. Lent is a time of eating simple and meatless meals, and prayers in solidarity with countries where there is little to no food security.
 - **DIGNITY OF LIFE** | Patricia said that the Easter Workshop, writing to our elders/Monday, March 27 went very well. 6 volunteers wrote cards to 50 elder, Fr. Paul and the staff. The workshop was advertised via bulletin notes and Constant Contacts.
 - During 40 Days for Life, members of J&P and a couple of parishioners kept a peaceful presence at the Plan Parenthood site in VA Beach with the rosary. This ministry action was advertised via bulletin notes.
4. **HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY** | Patricia reported St. Gabriel celebrated the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary by St. Gabriel, Archangel, March 25th. Bishop Desinord Jean presided the Mass with 54 priests in attendance. HTM encouraged SH parishioners to pray a Novena for our twin parish's Feast Day. They in turn, will do the same for SH Feast Day in June. Students are starting their 3rd quarter. For a 2nd year in a row, Fr. Fitho will invite a local dentist and 2 assistants to visit the students at school. The planning for the 16th Eastern Vicariate Haiti Twinning Gathering, St. Gregory is going well: "Continuing on the Path of Self-Sustainability. Learning about Endowments." Guest speaker will be Maggie Keenan, Director of Giving at the Catholic Community Foundation, Richmond Diocese/see flyer. The next out of parish sale to help feed 1 child for 1 year is April 15/see flyer.
5. **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** | Mike led the J&P Stations of the Cross with William's assistance. Frank and Betsy provided a delicious vegetable and pasta soup. Francesca and Brendan led the Haiti Solidarity Stations of the Cross. Allan and Patricia provided the rice and beans stew.
6. **SOUP KITCHEN** | Frank read Christopher's report. Soup Kitchen received some good food donations. Also, the service of the meals has returned to indoors. Teams are being identified.
7. **CATHOLIC WORKER/SOUPLINE** | Frank read Steve's report. The Norfolk Catholic Worker continues to use the Sacred Heart kitchen to prepare their morning meals served on the street. They are at the church every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday preparing for the following morning's serving. They serve on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings from 7-8:30 am. Those three mornings they bring food for 50-60 people out to the street, and two of those mornings they make 30 bag lunches for the people housed by the city at The Center on Tidewater Drive. This spring they can use granola bars and oranges along with white socks and white t-shirts, L and XL. They participate in a Black Lives Matter vigil from 4-5 pm on Thursdays at the corner of Hampton Blvd. and 27th St. Peace, Steve

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, April 15th, HTM Sale | Cherie's home, 9:00 am-2:00 pm

Saturday, April 29th, 15th Regional Haiti Gathering, St. Gregory the Great, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

NEXT MEETING: Mon, May 1, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm Guest Speaker: J. Culpepper, St Therese, Just Faith/Immigration



VISION

The Social Ministry Committee encompasses social outreach (faithful action) with spirituality (through Catholic Social Teaching formation), to integrate an awareness of social justice and charity into all aspects of parish life.

2023 YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

CLOSING PRAYER | William

April 2023	
CRS LENT RICE BOWL, CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION	
Sundays	Soup Kitchen
Mon/Wed/Fri.	Catholic Worker, Soupline
4/2-	Palm Sunday/End of 40 Days for Life & CRS Rice Bowl
4/03-	Justice & Peace Meeting, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, Commons
4/7-	Stations of the Cross @ Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
4/11-	<i>Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM) 6:00 pm light dinner, meeting 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Commons</i>
4/6-8-	Holy Thursday, Triduum
4/6-	Thursday End of Lent
4/9-	Easter
4/16-	Divine Mercy Sunday
4/17-(Mon.)	Care For Creation Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm-Commons
4/22-Sat.	Earth Day