



## 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://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org)

Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, | 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm | Sacred Heart Church, Commons

**Attendees:** Frank Murphy, Patricia & Allan Britz, William Wallace, Mike Stark, Melissa Marquardt **Guest:** Nancy Perry

Frank welcomed and thanked attendees. He shared that the goals of this meeting were for each ministry coordinator to give a short report on the impact of their ministries, and to get an update on the VA Supportive Housing. He thanked Nancy Perry, and all ministry coordinators for their dedication to their services.

Special intentions: Rev. James Kauffmann, 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, fair treatment of immigrants, empowering the poor, end of fires in Canada, protecting the unborn.

William read Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, Gospel, Matthew 13:1-23 and a reflection followed. It is important to prepare our hearts and souls, the foundation, to receive the rich seeds that God plants in each of us throughout our lives. With strong convictions, regular reflections, our actions have the potential to be lifegiving for our human family and the environment.

[2023 07 16 Reflection 106 | USCCB](#)

**SIGNS OF THE TIME** | Attendees discussed articles from The Catholic Virginian—[Home Page - Biweekly Newspaper for the Diocese of Richmond \(catholicvirginian.org\)](#).

[Vermont parish offers aid for those waiting out floods - Biweekly Newspaper for the Diocese of Richmond % \(catholicvirginian.org\)](#)

[Bishop Knestout at International Safeguarding Conference: world taking 'issue very seriously' - Biweekly Newspaper for the Diocese of Richmond % \(catholicvirginian.org\)](#)

<https://catholicvirginian.org/news/local/bishop-knestout-statement-following-shooting-after-graduation/>

## UPDATES

**OFFICE OF SOCIAL MINISTRY** | Director Tina Wandersee sent this report.

### Haiti Healthcare Support Team (HHST)

- Letter to unite the parishes regarding healthcare initiatives throughout the diocese towards one common goal went out last week with a survey attached to all twinning parishes to find out what healthcare initiatives are happening.
- Catholic VA writing an article on the work of healthcare, and Fr. Herald's in the Diocese of Hinche
- HHST has a focus on strengthening this team that came apart during COVID and the lack of travel.

### Haiti Commission

- Working on next steps to Bishop Jean's visit
- Diocesan Haiti Gathering coming this year.

### Prison Ministry Commission

- Partnership with Saint Vincent de Paul Society – Immersion Re-Entry Program for people previously incarcerated and entering back into community.
- Working with some issues of visitation at 3 State Prisons & 1 Federal Correction Center
- Diocesan Prison Ministry Training – to include Boundaries Training – coming this year.

### Social Ministry



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- Diocesan Summer Book Reading and Zoom Discussion in partnership with the Office of Migrant Ministry
  - Summer read of the book: A Theology of Migration: The Bodies of Refugees and the Body of Christ by Daniel G. Groody
  - Zoom Discussion to follow later in September: September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm (In recognition of World Day for Migrants and Refugees)
  - Invitation to join the summer read coming out by next week to all the Social Ministers – with a bulletin announcement to be easily placed in the bulletin – all are welcome to join the reading and the discussion.
- Follow-up to the Social Minister Retreat coming in the month of October – (17 participants gathered at the retreat and requested continued group formation together)
- Shine Conference – Office of Social Ministry, Office of Ethnic Ministry, and Office of Black Catholics partnership - March 2, 2024 – Church of the Redeemer, Mechanicsville – 9am -2:30pm – Opening Mass: Bishop Knestout

### COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATE | Nancy Perry, VA Supportive Housing

VSH continues to provide affordable housing and supportive services for more than 500 formerly homeless individuals in Hampton Roads. Each of our 6 properties in Norfolk, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach remain at nearly full capacity. Tours are currently set up and open to those interested in attending on these dates:

- August 16<sup>th</sup> at South Bay in Portsmouth at 10:30am
- September 6<sup>th</sup> at Crescent Square in Virginia Beach at 10:30am
- Date TBD at Heron’s Landing in Chesapeake

Update on the renovation and expansion of Gosnold apartments in Norfolk (which will grow the building from 60 units to 100):

Funding for the project is 70%. We are on track to begin construction early next year.

We appreciate Sacred Heart’s support and partnership in our mission to help end homelessness in Hampton Roads!

**PARISH NEWS** | Attendees noted new Religious Education Director is Sr. Linh Doe, Office Manager is Chrissy Bush, and Bookkeeper is Ron Ivey. Fr. Paul is visiting his family in Rwanda until early August.

**ADMIN.** | Frank shared that each ministry is encouraged to share their 2023-204 goals (SMART: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, and Relevant) at the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### MINISTRY IMPACT REPORTS

**ADVENT GIVING TREE** | Pat Walsh sent this report. For over 20 years Sacred Heart Justice and Peace committee has been overseeing a program of giving during the Advent season. (There have been other programs through the years, but this program has been continuous since at least 2003). At first our gifts went to the children of the migrant workers on the Eastern Shore. As our twinning relationship with St. Gabriel Parish in Haiti grew, we included the Haitian children as well in our outreach efforts.

In early November we get a list of the names, ages, sizes and gift requests for 70-100 children, infants to age 12 from our partner parish on the eastern Shore. Parishioners take the name and information for a child (or children), buy and wrap the



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gifts and return them to the church. A member of the migrant ministry team from St. Peter the Apostle's Parish in Onley comes to take the gifts to the children's parents so that the children will have gifts to open on Christmas Day. Each year the pastor of St. Gabriel Parish tells us of a need for the children there. It has been various things over the years (cement and rebar to build the school, utensils for the new cafeteria, playground equipment, textbooks for the expanding student body). Parishioners make monetary gifts in whatever amount is comfortable for them and the money is wire transferred to the Haitian pastor for purchasing whatever the need for that year is. This ongoing program affects hundreds of children, and a great number of parishioners, spreading the love of the Advent and Christmas season to those who need it most.

**BREAD FOR THE WORLD'S OFFERING OF LETTERS** | Mike shared that in May we conducted a Bread for the World, Offering of Letters campaign where we asked parishioners to write letters to our congressman asking them to support the Farm Bill. There were announcements, bulletin notes, and website postings.

**CARE FOR CREATION** | Frank read this report.

Keep Norfolk Beautiful (KNB) | Supported KNB's Adopt a Street, 4 quarterly trash collections, about 285 pounds of trash collected, 25 different parishioners and guest participated.

Earth Day | Held Earth Day 2023 using program developed by Religious Education student

Paper Waste Reduction | Reduced parish's paper consumption by 25% by reducing weekly Liturgy Guide from 4 pages to three, Cut the number of bulletins produced by half

Care for Creation Education | Educated parish on ways to reduce, reuse and recycle through biweekly bulletin notes

Youth/Family Programs | Conducted 2 programs related to Environmental Stewardship  
Care for Creation incorporated into Vacation Bible School

Laudato Si | Received permission from PPC to apply for membership in Laudato Si action platform

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES** | Frank shared that during the 40 days of Lent, CRS Rice Bowl, via bulletin notes, Constant Contact, and presence in the Common at a collection table, parishioners reflected on the impact of global hunger and climate change on vulnerable communities around the world, and we prayed, fasted, and gave alms to help our sisters and brothers in need in three countries: Honduras, Philippines, & Kenya. Also, 25% of the collection remained in the USA.

Sacred Heart is a member of VA Chapter, 2 monthly meetings: State, and National to learn about the Farm Bill, the international outreach part of the Bill, and how to approach both our Senators' and Representative's staff on virtual (1/August) and in person (1/June) visits. CRS focuses on long term sustainability development in 110 countries. Regular bulletin notes to inform parishioners of CRS activities.

**DIGNITY OF LIFE** | Patricia reported.

Volunteers wrote 50 cards to our elders for Christmas and Easter.  
We attended Crise Pregnancy Center and Hope 4 Life Banquets.  
Conducted a May Baby Item Drive in support of Crisis Pregnancy Center and Hope 4 Life.  
Volunteers had a monthly prayerful presence outside Planned Parenthood Clinic.



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We participated in the March for Life March, Richmond.

**HAITI TWINNING MINISTRY** | Patricia shared. To accompany our twin parish on the path of increased self-sustainability with dignity. Both parishes agreed to decrease the operation cost of the school Pre-K-13<sup>th</sup> Grades while investing in self-sustainable projects and continuing a close relationship and reflecting on the various themes of Catholic Social Teaching: Option for the Poor, The Dignity of Workers, Solidarity etc.

Greeting notes | Sent Birthday, Christmas, Easter, Mother's, and Father's Day cards to 20 parishioners at St. Gabriel & notes to Fr. Fitho Jean.

Communication | Met Fr. Fitho regularly via WhatsApp to share news of both parishes and keep a close relationship.

Actions | 3 Novenas: St. Gabriel Feast Day, Sacred Heart Feast Day, Haiti Solidarity Week in Sept., 1 Stations of the Cross in Solidarity with Haiti, 2 parish gatherings: HTM Anniversary (May), Haiti Solidarity Gathering (Sept.), 8-yard sales.

Education | Regular bulletin notes with updates on twin parish, Catholic Social Teaching, The Lambi's Call, a Haitian Journey by Dr. Tom Fame/book

#### Provided

8 teachers' salary, \$100 per year (10 last year) 1 nurse's salary, \$100 per year  
21 scholarships, \$275 each 16 students for lunch, \$420 each (21 students last year)  
Medical Assistance, \$100 per month & 1 Dentist's visit  
2 sets of textbooks 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grades, Christmas **1 water filtering system (sustainable project)**

**MIGRANT MINISTRY** | Amy sent this report from last summer. The Youth Ministry conducted an annual Backpack and School Supply Drive in July. The youth made a trip to the Eastern Shore migrant workers' camp to meet the community there, to glean potatoes, and drop off backpacks and school supplies. This ministry supports St. Peter the Apostle's Parish in Onley.

Also see Advent Giving Tree (Pam) and Thanksgiving Baskets (Karen)

**SOUP KITCHEN** | Christopher sent this report. In the past year, the Sacred Heart Soup Kitchen served 50 - 60 **hot** meals to our guests every Sunday. In March of this year, we returned to in-person serving. This required the return of our serving teams which comprise of multiple groups from other churches around the area. Each Sunday has its own cook and serving team captain. We are grateful for the cooking team captains who have continued and thankful for our serving teams who returned. We are still in need of serving volunteers from 12:30pm - 2:30pm on the 3rd and 5th Sundays. The cooking team captains create the meal menu, acquire the ingredients, and lead the cooking volunteers. Our serving team volunteers set up the tables, plate the meal, serve our guests, and clean up the commons afterward.

The soup kitchen ministry would like to thank all our volunteers and everyone who has donated food.

**SOUPLINE** | Steve sent this report. We continue preparing morning meals in the kitchen and serve on the street. We are at the church on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday weekly preparing for the following morning's serving. We serve on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings 6:00 am-9:30 pm. Volunteers make 50 bag lunches 3 mornings a week for people we see each morning, and 80 a week for people who are housed by the city at a hotel. This ministry is run by Catholic Worker.



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**THANKSGIVING BASKET MINISTRY** | Frank read Karen’s report. Sacred Heart works to increase food stability at Thanksgiving. In 2021 we helped over 315 people! We supported five agencies: Catholic Worker, Virginia Supportive Housing, Norfolk Community Services Board, Hope 4 Life, St Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, Eastern Shore Migrant Ministry. Parishioners donated the food, sorted it, and packed the bags. Nancy Perry and Frank Murphy to contact Karen for the upcoming Thanksgiving Basket Program.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**GHEENT AREA MINISTRY (GAM)** | Frank reported that he and Patricia are members of the GAM Board. They attend bi-monthly meetings and the Annual Meetings. They also volunteer weekly to meet with the clients, help with some cleaning and make some donations. SH supports GAM with generous donations from Fuel and Hunger Grant. SH makes various referral to people in the community for services at GAM.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- July 1-23, Eastern Shore Migrant Workers Backpack & School Supplies Drive
- July 22, Parish Clean the Street in collaboration of Keep Norfolk Beautiful, 8:45 am-10:00 am

**NEXT MEETING:** Mon., Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 7:00 pm-8:30 pm | William closed the meeting with a prayer for Migrants and Refugees.

July, 2023	
JUSTICE THROUGH ADVOCACY & BACKPACK DRIVE	
Sundays	Soup Kitchen
Tues./Thur./Sat. weekly	Catholic Worker, Soupline
7/2-	<b>Memorial Mass Neil Walsh</b>
7/1-23-	Parish Backpack Drive for Children on the Eastern Shore
7/24-	Backpack Pick-Up
7/4-	<b>Independence Day</b>
7/11-	<i>Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM) 6:00 pm light dinner, meeting 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm-Commons</i>
7/15/2000-	23rd Fr. Paul's Ordination Anniversary
7/17/2023-	<b>Justice &amp; Peace Meeting, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm-Commons</b>
7/22-	<b>Summer Parish Street Clean Up, 8:45 am - 10:00 am (Care for Creation Team &amp; Volunteers)</b>
August, 2023	
ASSUMPTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY	
Sundays	Soup Kitchen
Tues./Thur./Sat. weekly	Catholic Worker, Soupline
8/1/2016-	Fr. Paul's 7th Anniversary at SH
<b>8/15-</b>	<b>Assumption of the Holy Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
8/20-	<b>Memorial Mass Neil Walsh</b>