



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.

2024 YEAR OF PRAYER

JUSTICE & PEACE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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

Monday, March 4th, 2024, | 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm | Sacred Heart Church, Commons

Frank welcomed and thanked all attendees. The goals of this meeting are to join in prayer, report on each social and environmental ministry, and be informed of community partners' work. Introduction of attendees followed.

Attendees: Frank Murphy, Mike Stark, Francesca Smith, William Wallace, Allan and Patricia Britz, Tim Giddens, Babs Zuhowski, Alexis Beaver

Frank read these special intentions: Fr. Paul, Pastor at Sacred Heart, and Fr. Fitho, Pastor at our twin parish, St. Gabriel, Haiti. The souls of our beloved departed: Rev. James Kauffmann, Neil Walsh, Gar Housler, Eileen Powell, Ellen Renn, and Nicolas Valcour. Peace with Justice in Gaza, Ukraine, Haiti, and in the world, fair treatment of immigrants, an end to human trafficking, an end to homelessness and racism, empowerment of the poor, protection of the unborn, respect of the environment, & victims of wars.

William read last Sunday Gospel **John 2:13-25**, The Cleansing of the Temple, and reflection followed. The duty of every Christian is true worship which elicits a nuance of forms: prayer, attending church, doing devotionals, reading the bible, confession, feeding the poor, tending to the sick, etc.

UPDATES

OFFICE OF SOCIAL MINISTRY | Director Tina Wandersee

Diocesan Haiti Gathering | Sat. Feb. 17, 2024, 10:00am - 2:00pm, the Diocesan Haiti Gathering was held at St. Bede Catholic Church in Williamsburg. Guest speaker, Fr. Herald JEAN, Chair of the Health Care Hinche Commission various breakout sessions, and lunch. Attendees: Francesca, William, and Patricia.

Shine Conference | Sat., March 2, 2024, 9:00am - 3:00pm, Church of the Redeemer - Mechanicsville
The Shine Conference is a diocesan-wide gathering for all those doing the works of Social Ministry, living out of the Catholic Social Teachings of the Church, and/or are interested in learning about ways to engage in the Social Teaching of the Church. Breakout sessions: Prison Ministry, Racial Justice, Migrant/Refugee Ministry, Catholic Relief Services. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Knestout. Keynote speaker was Fr. Tochi Iwuji, Director of Black Catholics "The Validity of Individual Experience, "Ministering with a Multicultural Mindset. Attendees: Frank, William, and Patricia.

PARISH | Francesca reported SH hosted the Lenten Mission on 2/26, 27, and 28, 2024 with Mass from 5 to 6 PM and Reconciliation on 2/27 & 28 from 3 to 5:30 PM. "Eucharistic Revival: Meeting Christ in the Eucharist". Bishop Robert Barron's book, This Is My Body, was provided to all (extra copies available in Commons). Guest Presenter was Rev. Innocent Smith, OP. Dinner was provided by the Claphams, Doyles, and Napoleon respectively.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS REPORTS

Babs Zuhowski, Chief Operating Officer for Rural Housing Partnership, a non-profit organization, shared a summary of her work. "We help the elderly to stay at home and prevent them becoming homeless. We do this by fixing their homes as needed. We also make their homes accessible as needed."





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Alexis Beaver, Director of Development for Catholic Charities of Eastern VA sent this report.

We have mental health counseling for all ages. Call for an appointment at 757-495-3206 if you or a loved one needs help. Caring for an older adult in your home? Our in-home respite services for seniors can give you a break from the rigors of caregiving.

Help us give hope to local families needing professional support services with parenting, housing, employment and more by making a donation at www.cceva.org

Drop diapers and baby items to our Care Centers for local parents in need. See the complete wish list and locations at www.cceva.org

Donate your old vehicle to our programs for a tax break. We tow from anywhere at no cost to you.

Sign up and follow our stories on email, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Call our main office at 757-456-2366 or click on the QR code for more information about all the services we provide!

Alexis Beaver spoke to the Justice & Peace Committee about these programs and more available from Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia. CCEVA walks with all people in need of help and hope to bring them from crisis to a sustainable, successful life. She left program flyers and rack cards about the CCEVA programs and ways that parishioners can help and/or be helped.

Tim Giddens, [GHENT AREA MINISTRY](#) Project Director gave an overview of his work. GAM has a clothes-closet and a food pantry. It also provides bus tickets. It refers clients to services as needed. GAM collaborates with various churches synagogues, ODU and schools in Norfolk. The next Board meeting is March 7th. The Annual Board Lunch with community supporters will be April 17.

William gave an overview of the **March calendar**.

Mike & Francesca reported on the **J&P and the HTM Stations of the Cross**, March 15th, and 22nd followed by a meatless dinner. Mike passed a sign-up list for readers. Thanks to all who have signed up for both Stations of the Cross.

MINISTRIES' UPDATED REPORTS

1. [BREAD FOR THE WORLD'S OFFERING OF LETTERS](#) | Mike reported that he will do this legislative advocacy ask, April 20th and 21st after each Mass, in the Commons. See bulletin notes.
2. [CARE FOR CREATION](#) | Frank reported that Clean the Street will occur Sat. March 16th, 8:15-10 am. Please bring your gloves. Keep Norfolk Beautiful will supply the equipment needed. Announcements were made at Masses. The next meeting will be March 18th, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm.
3. [CATHOLIC WORKER](#) | Frank read Steve's report. Norfolk Catholic Worker continues to serve a meal on the street 3 mornings a week and to help house a couple dozen people. We can use volunteers on the soup line and, right now, can use ground coffee and as-large-as-possible men's winter gloves. We have an ongoing vigil against war and for nonviolence and nuclear disarmament, as well as one proclaiming Black Lives Matter, as unarmed Black people continue to disproportionately be killed.

Academy Award season is upon us and the film "Oppenheimer" is nominated for 13 Oscars.

On Friday, March 8, two days before the Hollywood extravaganza, Hampton Roads Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons will bring life-size cutouts of J. Robert Oppenheimer to Newport News Shipbuilding and call for an end to their construction of Columbia-class submarines, the next generation of nuclear capable ballistic missile subs.

The vigil will take place from 2-3:15 pm at the intersection of Huntington Ave. and 41st St.



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The 12 planned Columbia-class subs will carry the equivalent of 18,000 Hiroshima sized nuclear bombs. They may well "become death, destroyer of worlds" as Oppenheimer famously quoted in the wake of the first nuclear bomb test.

For more information contact Steve Baggarly at 757-469-6239.

4. **CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS)** | Frank shared meetings have moved from the 3rd Wed. to the 4th Mon. of the month for Tina Wandersee, Director of Social Ministry at the Diocese, and others to attend. CRS is tracking the Farm Bill and opposing American Farmers Feed the World since this bill would only assist countries in need with direct aid with no programs for self-sustainability, and development.
5. **DIGNITY OF LIFE** | Patricia shared that the Easter Cards for our Elders Workshop will take place in the Commons, Mon., March 11, 10:00 am-11:15 am. Please bring 8 religious Easter cards and stamps. Tony Mentasana & Patricia pray the rosary at Planned Parenthood every other Monday during 40 Days for Life. March for Life, Feb. 21st, Richmond went very well, 7 parishioners attended the event. Bishop Knestout offered the closing prayer. The crowd is to be larger every year.
6. **HAITI TWINNING** | Francesca reported the students at SG are preparing for the 3rd quarter exams which they will take before Easter. The school celebrated its 11th Anniversary, March 1st. March indoor sale will be at the Huette Center, March 9. Donations for Lunch, Teachers, Medical Support, Scholarship, and Sustainable Projects are meeting this year's plan. Haiti Twinning Gathering, Feb. 17, Saint Bede, guest speaker, Fr. Herald JEAN, Chair of the Health Care Hinche Commission. Haiti Prayer Gathering, Tuesday, March 5, #3. Together, we pray for our brothers and sisters in Haiti and for our own transformation. Teacher Endowment | Long term plan.
7. **SOUP KITCHEN** | Christopher sent this report. The ministry continues to serve 50 - 60 hot meals to our guests in person every Sunday. We continue to need help serving our guests from 12:30pm to 2:30pm on the 3rd and 5th Sun. of every month. Our serving team volunteers set up tables, plate the meal, serve our guests, and clean up the commons afterwards. Please contact Christopher Woods if you would like more info. or to volunteer. The soup kitchen ministry did an annual food drive in February with a list of items needed.
8. **WINTER SHELTER** | Frank noted that the Winter Shelter ended at New Life Church, on Feb. 18th-March 2nd. Frank volunteered at Saint Andrew's and Patricia at New Life.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS' REPORTS:

CRISIS PREGNANCY | Wendy Manos | Vice President of Community Relations

HOPE 4 LIFE | Caig Eller | Director

Please consider volunteering for Hope 4 Life. Hope 4 Life is our community's Catholic pregnancy resource center. We have recently expanded our service hours and need more volunteers. We do not wait for mothers to come to us, we go to the mothers who need us, offering meaningful support. This volunteer opportunity requires compassion and courage. The work is not always easy but can be incredibly rewarding. Please call or text the Hope 4 Life hotline and ask for Craig Eller 757 334-6149 | ellersix@cox.net

VA SUPPORTIVE HOUSING | Nancy Perry, Major Gift Officer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- CRS Rice Bowl ends on Palm Sunday
- HTM Indoor Sale "Feed 1 Child, 1 Sale at Time" March 16, 10:00 am-2:00 pm | Fred Huette Center, Ghent
- Fair Trade Coffee Sale available at meetings
- Next J&P meeting, April 8th, 7:00 pm-8:15 pm

William offered the closing prayer, Peace by Pope Francis.



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March, 2024	
ALMSGIVING, CRS LENT RICE BOWL, 40 DAYS FOR LIFE	
Sundays	Soup Kitchen
Tues./Thur./Sat. weekly	Catholic Worker, Soupline
3/1	11th Anniversary of the Dedication of the St. Gabriel School
3/1,8,15,22,29	Fri. Stations of the Cross, 6:00 pm in church #3 Choir, # 4 PPC, #5 J&P, #6 HTM
3/4-	Justice & Peace Meeting, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm, Commons
3/2&3,9&10,16&17, 23&24	Week 3-6 CRS Rice Bowl
3/10	We remember Neil Walsh (8/25/46-3/10/20)
3/11-	Write Easter Cards to our Elders Workshop, 10:00 am-11:15 am Bring Religious Easter cards, and stamps
3/12-	<i>Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM) 6:00 pm light dinner, meeting 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Commons</i>
*3/16-	Winter Street Clean Up, 8:30 am - 10:00 am (Care for Creation Team & Volunteers)
3/17-	Neil Walsh's Memorial Mass
3/18-(Mon.)	Care For Creation Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm-Commons
3/22	International Water Day
3/24	Palm Sunday/End of 40 Days for Life & CRS Rice Bowl
3/25-	Take Down CRS Table
*3/23-	St. Gabriel Feast Day of the Annunciation (Novena/Litany to Arcangel Saint Gabriel, 16th-22nd)
3/29-	Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, St. Mary's Basilica, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
3/31-	EASTER

COMMUNITY PARTNERS | **Tina Wandersee**, Director of the Diocesan Office of Social Ministries (1/11/23), **Fr. Tochi Iwuji**, Director of the diocesan Office for Black Catholics, **Maggie Keenan**, Director of Legacy Giving, Diocesan Office (2/23/24), Norfolk Community Service Board Program Administrator Housing & Homeless Services, **Timothy Giddens** GAM Director (weekly communication), **Nancy Perry** Major Gift Officer, VA Supportive Housing/Richmond (9/11/23), **Steve Baggarly** Norfolk Catholic Worker & Sowers of Justice (guest 1/9/24), **Jimmy Culpepper** CRS & Immigration (3/2/24), **Jay Brown** CCC, , **Marla Newby** Reentry Coordinator, **Ed Marroni** Holy Family/Environment & Sowers of Justice, **Pam Boatwright** Elizabeth River Projects, **Fleta Jackson** Keep Norfolk Beautiful, **Stephanie Cuffee** | Volunteer Coordinator FoodBank of Southeastern VA & The Eastern Shore (guest, 3/7/22), **Jeff Caruso** VA Catholic Conference, **Wendy Manos**, Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tideware, **Louantha Kerr**, Director Hope 4 Life (Craig Eller 1/8/24), **Joann Wagner** (Birthright Pregnancy Center), **Denise Parker** Health Educator-FAMIS Department of Medical Assistance Services Commonwealth of VA (5/3/21 guest), **Kathy Bredimus** St. Peter the Apostle's Migrant Worker Coordinator (12/11/23 picked up Christmas gifts), **Tracy Fick** Director & CEO Catholic Charity (guest 11/6/23) & , **Andrea Wiegard**, Catholic Charity, Senior Care Program (5/9/22), **Mary Ann Gower**, Senior In-Home Services Coordinator (5/9/22), **Natasha Zoby**, Disability Services UpCenter Director (1/9/23 guest), **Jimmy Culpepper**, **Teresa Stanley**, Sally Andrews-Gudas **Interface Immigration Legal Assistance Fund** (5/1/23) **Babs Zuhowski**, Chief Operating Officer for Rural Housing Partnership (3/4/24), **Alexis Beaver**, Director of Development for Catholic Charities of Eastern VA (3/4/24).