



## 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, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, | 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm | Sacred Heart Church, Commons

**WELCOME, THANK YOU, & GOALS OF THE MEETING** | Frank

### INTRODUCTION | by attendees

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 by attendees followed.

**Attendees:** Frank Murphy, Mike Stark, Francesca Smith, William Wallace, Mark Manning, Allan and Patricia Britz, Michael Benedetto, Annette Field, and Sherry Laine

Frank read these special intentions: Fr. Paul, 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, to homelessness, to racism, empowerment of the poor, protection of the unborn, respect of the environment

William read the last Sunday Gospel, Jn 20:19-31 and a reflection followed by attendees.

### SIGNS OF THE TIME | ARTICLE

**THE SIGNS OF THE TIME:** Catholic Virginian—[Home Page - Biweekly Newspaper for the Diocese of Richmond \(catholicvirginian.org\)](https://catholicvirginian.org)

### UPDATES

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

Social Ministers & Ministry

1. Social Ministry Advisory Committee
  - a. This is in the active stages of being developed.
  - b. A Retreat for Advisory Committee will be held in July 2024 to form this Committee.
2. Social Ministry Retreat – TBD – possibility of October 2024
3. SHINE Conference – March 1, 2025 – waiting on confirmation of venue

Prison Ministry

1. Prison Ministry Commission Visioning Retreat – May 2024 at Richmond Hill
  - a. Discern a cohesive path forward in three components: Training, Education and Outreach
  - b. Immersion Program – St Vincent de Paul

Haiti Ministry

1. Diocesan Haiti Gathering – TBD – possibility of September 21, 2024 – waiting on confirmation of venue
2. Visioning Retreat – TBD – summer 2024

**PARISH** | All



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**COMMUNITY PARTNER** | TFC Recycling is proud to be a Justice and Peace Ministry Community Partner. The family business was started in Hampton Road in 1973, by Joseph and Susann Benedetto. Their son, Michael “Recycle” Benedetto continues to operate the family business as its President and CEO. Michael has been employed by TFC Recycling since the 1980’s and has helped the business grow to over 350 employees and serving over 500,000 customers. TFC Recycling is best known for providing commercial and curbside recycling services which support environmental stewardship and sustainability. By recycling, we reduce harmful emissions and reuse natural resources which contribute to cleaner air and water and protect our blessed Earth for our children and the generations to come. To arrange for a tour of the TFC Recycling Materials Recovery Facility or for questions, please contact Michael “Recycle” Benedetto at 757-222-2173 or via email at [mbenedetto@tfcrecycling.com](mailto:mbenedetto@tfcrecycling.com) Thank you so much!

William reviewed the April and May J&P **calendar**.

Mike and Francesca reflected on both the J&P, and Haiti Solidarity **Stations of the Cross**. They were well attended, about 30 people, with ample readers. A meatless dinner followed.

**ADMINISTRATION:** coordinators of social ministries to review the impacts of their ministry July 2023-June 2024 and turn them in with dates for the July 2024-June 2025 calendar by June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### MINISTRIES’ UPDATED REPORTS

**BREAD FOR THE WORLD’S OFFERING OF LETTERS** | Mike reported that he will set up tables in the Commons for parishioners to write letters to their senators and representatives. Personalized letters and emails stand out. They tell senators and representatives that you, as a constituent, really care about an issue. Write to your legislators about these issues that are currently moving in Congress and/or in the administration. The impact of the farm bill is significant. It not only affects the agriculture and food sectors – it can play a huge role in ending food insecurity and hunger in the U.S. and save the lives of millions abroad. Tell your senators and representatives to support the reauthorization of the farm bill to build healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

**CARE FOR CREATION** | Frank reported that Clean the Street in support of Keep Norfolk Beautiful went well. The team of 12 picked up 75 pounds of trash, included some recycle. The ministry met March 18<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is April 15<sup>th</sup>. The focus is Laudato Si Platform, and Earth Day, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**CATHOLIC WORKER** | Frank read Steve’s report. Norfolk Catholic Worker continues to serve a meal on the street 3 mornings a week. We can use volunteers on the soup line and, right now, can use ground coffee and white socks/men. 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.

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS)** | Frank reported that The American Farmers Feed the World Act is a **bipartisan legislation that would renew the role of American agriculture in the fight against global hunger**<sup>12</sup>. The legislation was introduced by Representatives Tracey Mann (R-KS), John Garamendi (D-CA), Rick Crawford (R-AR), and Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senators Mike Braun (R-IN) and John Tester (D-MT) in the U.S. Senate<sup>1</sup>. The act would prioritize American-grown food over foreign competitors for American aid programs around the world<sup>2</sup>. The act would also reverse half of Food for Peace dollars for purchasing commodities and shipping them overseas<sup>3</sup>.

CRS VA Chapter to meet with staff from Senator Mark Warner's office for our spring Congressional virtual visit, **Thursday, April 18, at 10:00 a.m.** We will be meeting on 1) the Farm Bill, specifically, the Food for Peace Program and



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opposing the American Farmers Feed the World Act, and 2) international hunger-reducing assistance in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 federal appropriations.

**DIGNITY OF LIFE** | Patricia reported that the Easter Cards for our Elders Workshop/Mon., March 11, 10:00 am-11:15 am went well. 8 volunteers wrote to about 55 elders, and the staff. One of the recipients wrote a thank you note back.  
**MAY Baby Items Collection** | Sacred Heart will conduct a collection of baby items in the Commons April 27<sup>th</sup>-May 19<sup>th</sup> for Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater and Hope 4 Life ([hope4lifeva.com](http://hope4lifeva.com)). Please pick up or take a picture of the suggested list on the table in the Commons and drop off your donations in the playpen by the table.

**HAITI TWINNING** | Francesca reported that Fr. Fitho, pastor at St. Gabriel was pleased that the parishioners at Sacred Heart joined his parish for a Novena to St. Gabriel leading to their Feast Day, March 23<sup>rd</sup> this year. He also acknowledged the fact that the Haiti Ministry led a Stations of the Cross in Solidarity with Haiti. The students took their 3<sup>rd</sup> period exams before Easter and are currently back in school. He wished Fr. Paul and the parishioners a blessed and Happy Easter.

**SOUP KITCHEN** | Frank noted that the ministry continues to serve 50 - 60 hot meals to our guests indoors every Sunday. The 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.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS' REPORTS

**CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER** | Wendy Manos, Vice President of Community Relations Walk for Life is one of the biggest annual fundraisers for Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater. There will be 3 Walk for Life events this year: April 13 at Chesapeake Park, April 20 at Town Center – Virginia Beach, April 27 at the Norfolk Zoo. Please consider participating as a walker or sponsoring someone to raise funds for this important ministry. POC: Lisa Barker at (757) 714-9292 or email [zazagramps@gmail.com](mailto:zazagramps@gmail.com). To donate, go to <https://walkforlife.cpcfriends.org/lbarkema>.

**HOPE 4 LIFE** | Caig Eller, Director

Please mark your calendars for the 10th annual Hope 4 Life banquet to be held on Saturday, June 22 at Saint Matthew Catholic School Gym, 3314 Sandra Ln, Virginia Beach, VA 23464. Reception begins at 6:30 PM. Banquet starts at 7:00 PM. The guest speaker is Dr. Kathy Aultman. There is a Saturday vigil Mass at 5:30 PM at Saint Matthew. For registration, please contact Louantha Kerr-[louantha@gmail.com](mailto:louantha@gmail.com)

**GHEENT AREA MINISTRY** | Tim G. Project Director

Frank noted that there will be an annual GAM Board and Community Partners lunch at Freemason Church, Apr. 17, noon. Donations of brooms and mops needed this quarter.

**VA SUPPORTIVE HOUSING** | Nancy Perry, Major Gift Officer

Nancy sent this report. We are getting close to closing the funding gap of the expansion and renovation of Gosnold Apartments. We are hopeful to be breaking ground later this year. The project will affect half of the residents at one time. They will work on one side of the building, and once completed the other side will be worked on. The residents will move into efficiency lodging. VSH will take care of everything for the residents while this construction is going on.

**CATHOLIC CHARITY** | [Tracey Fick, President & CEO](#)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Baby Items Collection, April 27<sup>th</sup>-May 19<sup>th</sup>, Sacred Heart Church Commons
- Fair Trade Coffee Sale Just Haiti available at meetings
- May 5, Parish Free Dinner/Raffle | 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Twinning with St Gabriel Parish, Haiti, 4:00 pm-5:30 pm



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- Next J&P meeting, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm-8:15 pm

Sherry offered the closing prayer: Peace.

| APRIL  |  |
|--|--|
| CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION  |  |
| Sundays  | Soup Kitchen   |
| Tues./Thur./Sat. weekly  | Catholic Worker, Soupline  |
| 4/8-   | <b>Justice &amp; Peace Meeting, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm, Commons</b>   Tina Wandersee & Mike Benedetto   |
| 4/7-   | Divine Mercy Sunday  |
| 4/16-  | <i>Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM) 6:00 pm light dinner, meeting 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Commons</i>  |
| 4/20-21-TBC  | Bread for the World's Offering of Letters, Commons after each Mass   |
| 4/20-  | Friends of Haiti Twinning Lunch   St. Gregory the Great, VA Beach, 11:00 am-2:00 pm RSVP   |
| 4/21-  | Neil Walsh's Memorial Mass   |
| 4/15-(Mon.)  | <b>Care For Creation Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm-Commons</b>  |
| *4/22-   | <b>Earth Day</b>   |
| 4/22-  | Set table May Baby Items Collection  |
| MAY  |  |
| BABY ITEMS COLLECTION/DIGNITY OF LIFE   17 <sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN TWINNING FREE DINNER |  |
| Sundays  | Soup Kitchen   |
| Tues./Thur./Sat. weekly  | Catholic Worker, Soupline  |
| 5/4-5-   | 17th Anniversary of Twinning with St. Gabriel  |
| 5/5-   | <i>Parish 17th Anniversary in Twinning, 4:00 pm-5:30 pm--Commons (presentation on education &amp; free dinner/raffle)   In lieu of Meeting</i> |
| <b>*5/9-Thur.</b>  | <b>Ascension of Jesus</b>  |
| 5/13-  | <b>Justice &amp; Peace Meeting, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm, Commons</b>   Wendy Manos & Nancy Perry   |
| 5/4-5, 11-12, 18-19  | Baby Items Collection (Hope 4 Life & Crisis Pregnancy Center)  |
| <b>*5/12-</b>  | <b><i>Mother's Day</i></b>   |
| <b>*5/19-</b>  | <b>Pentecost Sunday</b>  |
| 5/20- (Mon.)   | <b>Care For Creation Social/Out of Parish in Lieu of Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm</b>  |
| <b>*5/27-Mon.</b>  | <b>Memorial Day</b>  |

**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 Baggarty 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 Tidewater, 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), Michael Benedetto, CEO & Owner TFC Recycling (4/9/24)