



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://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org) (see pictures)

Monday, June 3rd, 2024, | 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm | Sacred Heart Church, Commons

Attendees: Mike Stark, Francesca Smith, Susan Daniel, William Wallace, Allan and Patricia Britz, Sherry Laine, Melissa Marquardt, Mark Maning. **Guests:** Craig and Susan Eller, Hope 4 Life

Patricia welcomed attendees. The goals of this meeting, the last meeting of the year, are to get updates on the work of Hope 4 Life, the Diocesan Office of Social Ministry, Parish Life, Community Partners, and individual parish 10 ministries' impact for 2023-2024. Attendees introduced themselves.

Sherry read the prayer intentions: Fr. Paul, Sacred Heart, and Fr. Fitho, 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.

William read the opening prayer: “a Prayer for Wisdom and Courage”.

SIGNS OF THE TIME | ARTICLE

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

UPDATES

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

Social Ministers & Ministry

SHINE Conference - March 1, 2025 - Our Lady of Lourdes, Richmond
Social Minister Retreat - October 2024 - tbd

Prison Ministry

Prison Ministry Commission Visioning Retreat - May 21-23, 2024, at Richmond Hill
Discern a cohesive path forward in four components: Training, Education, Outreach and Advocacy | Went well.

Haiti Ministry

Diocesan Haiti Gathering - St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlottesville, September 21, 2024
Visioning Retreat still being planned.

PARISH | Francesca gave an update on the 3-year Capital Campaign that started Sunday, May 5th after Mass with lunch, and presentation. The campaign will help repair and replace the leaking roof of the church and replace the HVAC. Parishioners have responded well so far.

COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATES



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Craig reported that the goal of Hope 4 Life is to save lives and help both mothers and fathers. This is done by meeting couples where they are, listening to their stories, providing layette and equipment for their babies, and making an array of services available: couple counselling, support group, guidance, encouraging families to take care of their babies. Also, Hope 4 Life has a strong praying presence at the abortion clinic to talk with moms/couples who are considering abortion and offer free ultrasounds and counselling. Please mark your calendars for the 10th annual Hope 4 Life banquet to be held on Sat., 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

ADMINISTRATION: coordinators of social ministries to turn in dates for the July 2024-June 2025 calendar by July 1, and bulletin notes, as needed for July and August.

MINISTRIES' UPDATED REPORTS & IMPACTS 2023-2024

1. BACKPACK DRIVE | CHILDREN ON EASTERN SHORE

Susan reported that as of tradition, Sacred Heart conducted an annual Backpack and School Supply Drive in July 2023. This ministry supports St. Peter the Apostle's Parish in Onley. **This ministry impacted 88 children.** Susan will be the new coordinator of this ministry this year. She and her grandchildren will make sure that the backpacks will be filled with all required school supplies. **The drive will be July 20th-August 11th.** See bulletin notes for list. Also see Advent Giving Tree and Thanksgiving Baskets for support of the families on the Eastern Shore **POC:** Susan Daniel susdan@me.com

2. ADVENT GIVING TREE

Pam sent this report. 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 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. **In 2023, 53 children received Christmas gifts (clothes and toys).**

Each year the pastor at our twin parish, St. Gabriel, in Haiti 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 what the need for that year is. **In 2023, Grades 8th and 9th, 83 students received some textbooks.**

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. **POC:** Pam Housler pamhousler@cox.net

3. BREAD FOR THE WORLD

Mike said that in May, Sacred Heart conducted a Bread for the World, Offering of Letters campaign where we asked parishioners to write letters to our congressmen asking them to support the Farm Bill. Lately, parishioners have sent letters via the Bread.org website. There were announcements, bulletin notes, and website postings.

POC: Mike Stark mpstark@aol.com

4. CARE FOR CREATION



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Keep Norfolk Beautiful (KNB)

Supported KNB's Adopt a Street
4 quarterly trash collections
About 245 pounds of trash collected
Average size of teams was ten.

Earth Day | Held Earth Day event in April 2024

Paper Waste Reduction | Reduced parish's paper consumption by 25% by reducing weekly Liturgy Guide from 4 pages to 3, 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

Laudato Si | Worked on application for Sacred Heart's membership in Laudato Si action platform

CARE FOR CREATION | Sacred Heart Parish has committed to the support of Keep Norfolk Beautiful (KNB) by picking up litter on Princess Anne Road on a quarterly basis. We will be continuing that project on Saturday, June 15, from 8:30 – 10:30 AM. We will begin gathering in the parking lot at 8:15. Please bring gloves and join us. If you have any questions, call Annette Field at 757-535-4443. See you then!

5. CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Patricia reported that CRS Rice Bowl | During the 40 days of Lent, 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: Uganda, El Salvador, and Indonesia. Also, 25% of the collection remained in the USA.

Sacred Heart is a member of CRS 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 (April 2024) visit. CRS focuses on long term sustainability development in 110 countries. Regular bulletin notes to inform parishioners of CRS activities. Rice Bowl Collection 2024: \$965. Some donations were made directly to CRS. POC: Patricia Britz patprovence1@yahoo.com (2020)

6. CATHOLIC WORKER

Steve sent this report. We are in our 30th year of preparing for our morning soupline at the Sacred Heart kitchen. We are at the church on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for an hour or so, preparing for the following morning's serving. We serve on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings from 6-9 am. There are some 150 volunteers who make sandwiches, boil eggs, collect clothing and toiletries or help us to serve. We serve 50-70 people each morning on the street and we make 60 bag lunches each week to share with people living at the city shelter. We'll serve some 9,000 meals on the street this year and provide the shelter with another 3,000. Thank you, Sacred Heart. Our Tuesday sandwiches continue to be wrapped in wax paper by the Unitarian Universalists. No other church does it. POC: Steve Baggary williamsbaggary@gmail.com (1994)

7. **DIGNITY OF LIFE FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH**



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Francesca reported that 7 volunteers wrote 55 cards to our elders and the staff at Christmas and Easter.

Attended Crise Pregnancy Center and Hope 4 Life Banquets in 2023.

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., VA Beach

We participated in the March for Life, in March, Richmond, and in Washington D.C.

POC: Tony Mentasana tonyment@verizon.net & Patricia Britz patprovence1@yahoo.com

8. HAITI TWINNING

Francesca reported that the goal is 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-13th Grades (teachers 'salary and lunch) while investing in self-sustainable projects.

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

Communication: Called Fr. Fitho every 2 weeks via WhatsApp.

Faith in Action: Novena for 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.), 7-yard sales out of parish (lunch).

Education: Regular bulletin notes with updates on twin parish

Catholic Social Teaching

Book study: The Lambi's Call, Breaking the Chains by author Dr. Tom Fame

Provided

6 teachers' salary, \$100 per year (8 last year) | 1 nurse's salary, \$100 per month

21 scholarships, \$275 each | 11 students for lunch, \$420 each (16 students last year)

Medical Assistance, \$100 per month | Textbooks (Advent Giving Tree) | Microloans to some parents

POC: Patricia Britz (2007) & Brendan Pigott bp2004bch@aol.com (2018)

9. SOUP KITCHEN

Christopher sent this report. In the past year, the Sacred Heart Soup Kitchen served between 45 and 55 **hot** meals to our guests every Sunday. Typically turn-out is low on Sundays of inclement weather or pay weeks. We have noticed that an increasing portion of our guests are working poor. The soup kitchen is still recovering from the effects of the pandemic.

Volunteers and donations from regular sources are down and difficult to find. 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 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm 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. Last February we held our annual dry goods drive to restock our pantry. The drive was not as successful as the previous year. We plan on holding the dry goods drive again next February.

The soup kitchen ministry would like to thank Fr. Paul, our volunteers, and everyone who has donated food. We wouldn't be able to keep this ministry running without your support! **POC** Christopher Woods christopher.l.w99@gmail.com



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[2024 YEAR OF PRAYER](#)

COMMUNITY PARTNERS' UPDATES:

- [CRISIS PREGNANCY](#) | Wendy Manos, Vice President of Community Relations
- [HOPE 4 LIFE](#) | Craig Eller | Director
- GHENT AREA MINISTRY | The new Director of Project is LeRoy Flaten.
- [VA SUPPORTIVE HOUSING](#) | Nancy Perry, Major Gift Officer
- CATHOLIC CHARITY | [Tracey Fick, President & CEO](#)
- [TFC RECYCLING](#) Michael Benedetto, President, and Owner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Fair Trade Coffee Sale available at meetings | Patricia
- Clean the Street Sat., June 15th, 8:30 am-10:30 am Bring your gloves
- Backpack Drive, July 20th-August 11th, 2024, | Susan
- Next J&P meeting, September 9th, 2024, 7:00 pm-8:15 pm (no meetings in July & August)

William offered the closing prayer: A Prayer for Community.

CALENDAR

June 2024 Fr. Paul's Vacation	
REFUGEE AWARENESS, SOLIDARITY	
Sundays	Soup Kitchen
Tues./Thur./Sat. weekly	Catholic Worker, Soupline
6/3-	J&P Meeting, 7:00 pm - 8:15, Commons Craig Eller/Hope 4 Life & Tina Wandersee/Social Ministry Director/Diocese
6/11-	<i>Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM) 6:00 pm light dinner, meeting 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Commons</i>
*6/16-	Father's Day
6/19-	Juneteenth National Holiday (End of Slavery in the US)
TBD	Ministry Fair-Commons
6/17-	Care For Creation Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm, Commons
6/22-	Hope 4 Life Banquet Saint Matthew's Gym, 6:30 pm registration
5/29-6/6-	<i>Novena for the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus HTM & SG</i>
6/7-	Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (19 Days after Pentecost, on a Friday)
July, 2024	
JUSTICE THROUGH ADVOCACY & BACKPACK DRIVE	
Sundays	Soup Kitchen
Tues./Thur./Sat. weekly	Catholic Worker, Soupline
7/2-	Memorial Mass Neil Walsh
7/4-	Independence Day
7/15/2000-	24rd Fr. Paul's Ordination Anniversary
7/15-TBC	Backpack Collection Set Up Table
July 20-August 11-	BackPack Collection 4 weeks
August, 2024	



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ASSUMPTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY	
Sundays	Soup Kitchen
Tues./Thur./Sat. weekly	Catholic Worker, Soupline
July 20-Aug.t 11-	Backpack Collection 4 weeks
8/13-	Backpack Collection Pick up 10:00 am (time TBC)
8/1/2016-	Fr. Paul's 8th Anniversary at SH
8/15-	Assumption of the Holy Blessed Virgin Mary
8/20-	Memorial Mass Neil Walsh
September, 2024	
HTM HAITI SOLIDARITY MONTH, DIGNITY & RIGHTS OF WORKERS, SEASON OF CREATION	
Sundays	Soup Kitchen
Tues./Thur./Sat. weekly	Catholic Worker, Soupline
9/1-	Memorial Mass Ellen Renn, 11:00 am
*9/2-	Labor Day
9/3-	<i>Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM) Meetings Resume, 6:00 pm light dinner, meeting 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm-Commons</i>
9/10-	<i>We remember Ellen Renn (2/16/62-9/10/17)</i>
9/9-	Justice & Peace Meetings Resume, 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm-Commons
9/16- (Mon.)	Care For Creation Meetings Resume, 7:00 pm-8:15 pm-Commons
9/13-22 St. Joseph the Worker Novena	Parish Haiti Solidarity Novena by Brendan
9/21-22-	Parish Haiti Solidarity Weekend (Prayer /Faithful, Haiti Hymn/Cantor, Choir, Calendar of Activities in Bulletin, Announcement)
Sun. 9/22-	<i>4:00 -5:30 pm HTM Update to Parish. Solidarity, dinner, live music, raffle, Speaker: Tina Wandersee, Director of Social Ministry Richmond Diocese --Commons Parish Haiti Solidarity Dinner</i>

COMMUNITY PARTNERS | **Tina Wandersee**, Director of the Diocesan Office of Social Ministries (9/24/23), **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, **Leroy Flaten** GAM Program Director (weekly communication), **Nancy Perry** Major Gift Officer, VA Supportive Housing/Richmond (9/11/23 & 5/13/24), **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 (5/13/24), **Louantha Kerr**, Director Hope 4 Life (**Craig Eller** 1/8/24 & 6/3/24), **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)