

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY NOTES

September 9, 2026 6:30 PM

Attendees: Donna Ecker, Joyce Martelli, Linda Beckford, Cheryl Zehner, Polly McCarthy, Rev. Celie, Betty Jerabeck, Fran Murphy, Monica Murphy, Rosemary Salamone, Sue Gerber, Melanie Zehner

Prayer- Joyce

Updates: (Action items and individuals responsible are bolded.)

- Community Dinner
 - Donna gave the update on the successful community dinners held in July and August. We had 30 people in July and 45 in August. The August diners were mostly from DePaul. There was leftover food in July, and it was delivered to Father Tracy. No leftovers in August.
 - Sue reported that the approximate cost of the two dinners was around \$800, with about \$520 being spent on food. We also received \$120 from parishioners for the dinners.
- Community Dinners going forward
 - Thought is to have the dinners next year starting in June and run through September. Winter months would be hard for diners to travel in cold weather since many may be walkers.
 - Ideas for winter months were discussed: cookie delivery in December, soup delivery in January or February, coffee/donut delivery. Further discussion in October to figure out logistics and team leads
 - Changes for continuation of the community outreach
 - **Donna to find out the census of DePaul**
 - **Donna will send an email to volunteers of the past to learn their support going forward.**
 - **Donna to contact social worker about our ideas**
 - **Email to go out to previous volunteers to find out their availability as we advance**
 - **If we go forward, work on developing two teams so that no one has to work all the dinners and also have sign-up lists with responsibilities.**

- **Work with a theme for each dinner and also the same day of the month. We will continue with having at the end of the month, but settle on a consistent day of the week.**
 - **Joyce to reach out to Cindy McClurg to see if she will lead the Cookie Project**
 - **Possible Christmas collection to help fund future dinners. Information to Jim Bridges for budgeting in the coming year.**
- Thursday bulletins -Social Justice articles are covered for the fourth Thursday of each month through December. Make sure that your articles are to Sue by Wednesday, 5PM.
 - **September 23 – Cheryl**
 - **October 28 – Linda**
 - **November 25 – Kevin**
 - **December 23 - Polly**
- Blessing Box
 - Sue reported that people in the neighborhood have been adding to our box. We can always use more food. The box is being used even more at this point.

Upcoming Events

- We will be doing the Angel Tree in December for Chava's migrant/immigrant work. **Joyce to reach out to Chava to see if there are needs before then.**
- Mary Sweeney is to get back to Joyce with contact for NYSpirit to help with future needs. Sue will also check for a contact person.

New Items

- Fundraising ideas to help support the Community Dinner project such as a cookie fundraiser (**Monica Murphy for more details**), poinsettias for Christmas (**Joyce Martelli for more details**)
- Restructure of Social Justice Ministry. Talk of a smaller group to be the planning and sounding board for ideas vs a larger group of people to support and lead projects. May be more efficient use of everyone's time and commitment. We also need to get the newer people to Mary Magdalene involved in the leadership roles of Social Justice work.

- September 27th, after Mass, we will set up a table at coffee hour to invite people to ask questions about Social Justice work. Joyce and Donna will be there to talk with individuals. We will announce this next Sunday and also place it in the bulletin.
- Starting with the minutes of this meeting, the minutes of the committee will be available in the bulletin as well as on the website.
- Joyce will be stepping down as the facilitator of the ministry. She is willing to help mentor the next facilitator and will also stay active with events of the ministry. If you or someone you know is willing to take on this role, please contact Celie or Joyce.

Closing Prayer - Betty