

# Social Justice & Peace Ministry Meeting and Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 3 2009

Time: 7:15 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Place: Parish Center

**Attendance:** Fourteen Members Thank you for your participation!

## Opening Prayer

Seek Peace and Pursue It. "Seek Peace and Pursue It" is a nine-week peace novena that can be accessed at [www.benetvision.org/news\\_pages/peace\\_novena.html](http://www.benetvision.org/news_pages/peace_novena.html). The prayer intention is for all victims of war. Please repeat this prayer during the week. As the Bible states "Blessed are the peacemakers/they shall be called children of God" (Mt.5-9).

## Special Intentions

## OLD BUSINESS

- Pax Christi

- Joanne Frantin will send "thank you notes" to Elizabeth Begley, 41 Milford Lane Suffern, NY 10901; Monica Garafalo, 160 Overlook Ave. Apt. 24A, Hackensack, NJ 07601-7709; Florence Giammarino c/o Monica (unless I get her address!) Thank you.
- Joanne and Walt will submit publicity for Fathers' Day Food Drive to Pascack Press and Community Life. Thanks!

- Social Justice Ministry Food Drives: June 20-21 Father's Day Food Drive - Pegie Doll

"Honor The Father and Our Fathers" see church bulletin or our SJM website link for details. The oversized Fathers' Day Card was created by Pegie Doll. Thanks, Pegie!

The following members have volunteered to direct parishioners to Fathers' Day card, donation placement; greetings and thank yous at the following Masses. We are looking for two volunteer at each Mass. Many thanks to the volunteers listed below who will cover the following Masses.

- 5:30 Pegie, Elaine
- 7:30 Ginny Millard, Lois
- 9:30 Monica Garafalo
- 11:00 Denise, Joanne
- 12:30 Jean and Bob Lampert

- Food Pantries Volunteer Drivers

We are looking for volunteer drivers for the Food Drive. Please let Ginny Millard know if you would like to be a volunteer by calling her at 201-391-6975.

- New Jersey Regional Coalition (NJRC)

NJRC is a five year old, statewide interfaith coalition of congregations and civic groups joined together to bring about regional solutions to poverty, segregation and the destructive competition between municipalities in New Jersey. The next meeting is:

Date: Saturday, June 13, 2009

Place: St. John the Evangelist School Cafeteria, Bergenfield, NJ

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

If interested in attending, please contact Ginny.

- The Archdiocesan Catholic Charities USA Campaign to Reduce Poverty Task Force

The next county meeting to share information, brainstorm ideas, set priorities for further action relevant to Bergen County will be held on:

Date: Monday, June 15, 2009

Place: Annunciation Parish, 50 West Midland Avenue, Paramus, NJ

Time: 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Ginny Millard, Joanne and Walt Frantin, Denise Dorn will be attending. Please contact Ginny, Joanne, Walt or Denise if you are interested in joining them.

- Our Lady of Mercy Parish Spring 2009 Newsletter

A heartfelt THANK YOU to Liz Olynick, SJM member, for her very well organized and articulate article in the OLM Parish Spring Newsletter. Liz's article on *The Social Justice Ministry at Our Lady of Mercy* highlighted beautifully all the activities sponsored by SJM in so many different arenas. Thank you Liz for your hard work and conscientious reporting on "what social justice is all about" and for the welcoming invitation for our new members in the name of action for peace and justice in our world today.

Also a "must read" in the newsletter is the article written by Kevin Carroll, "How I Spent My Summer Vacation." It was inspiring and entertaining. It makes you want to do your part and visit Haiti. We were so fortunate to be able to host an educational and informative meeting with Judy Reilly and Kevin a few months ago.

- Issues to Be Discussed

- Social Justice Ministry name change was approved. The ministry will be called "Social Justice and Peace Ministry." Bob Lampert is creating a banner for OLM Social Justice and Peace Ministry. Our thanks to Bob.
- Sept. 2009 - June 2010 Meeting Dates for next year. It was suggested to have the meetings on either the second or third week of the month and either on a Tuesday or Wednesday.
- Summer Homeless Shelter at OLM. Sign-up sheets are located in the Gathering Space.
- Soup Kitchen. Sign-up boards are located at the OLM entrance and the Gathering Place.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Advocate Needed for Ridge Home Student, Park Ridge

Ron Von Autenreid visited us this evening to ask if there is anyone qualified and interested in becoming an advocate for a student from the Ridge Home in Park Ridge. It would entail becoming familiar with a student's case history and advocating for that student. Ron represents the Children's Aid and Family Service of Bergen County.

If you have an interest or any further questions, call Ron at 201-930-1421. There are many ways to volunteer for children of all ages under the protection of Children's Aid and Family Services. If you are interested, call Liz Mason 201-261-2800 for further information.

- First Friends-Elizabeth Detention Center: "Stamp Out Despair"

SJM usually supports this center during the Advent/Giving Tree Season. There is strong interest in having speaker from Elizabeth Detention Center speak to SJM next year.

- Education for Catholic Relief Services, Afghanistan

Margaret Egger graciously shared with us her daughter, Michaelea Egger's role as Project Manager for Education for Catholic Relief Services in Afghanistan. Michaelea has been in Afghanistan for four years. We are hoping that Michaelea will be able to share her stories with SJM when she visits her family in Montvale this summer.

### **Closing Thoughts From Ginny Millard - See you in the Fall!**

Once again thank you all for your prayers, loyalty, persistence and support during our Social Justice Ministry this year. I am filled with gratitude that we have stood side by side putting into action our SJM mission statement.

I am most proud that we have chosen a safe and supportive place to discuss the many controversial Social Justice issues that need to be addressed but not necessarily solved.

Please consider answering this yearly reflection on the Social Justice Ministry at Our Lady of Mercy Church. Input would be of value to us so that we can continue to serve. Just download 2008 – 2009 Social Justice Ministry Reflections and e-mail to [vmillard@yahoo.com](mailto:vmillard@yahoo.com).

Christ's peace is with us!  
Ginny