

Meeting of the Social Justice/Multicultural Committee of the Blue Water Vicariate of the Archdiocese of Detroit
Thursday, March 22, 2007 3 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe

Present: Sister Barbara, Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Gretchen Forrester, Holy Cross Parish, Barbara Susan, Holy Cross Parish, Hank and Sarah Rutkowski, St. Edward, Sharon Bender, OLG

Not Present: Mary Suarez, OLG, Mercedes Fox OLG

Handouts: Prayer for Peace; Minutes 02/22/07 Meeting; Agenda

I Opening Prayer

Gretchen opened the meeting with prayer 3:25 pm

All read Prayer for Peace 3:37 pm

II. Approval of Agenda

No additions to the agenda.

Correction to item B: Vicariate Social Concerns Meeting – Vicariate Christian Service Meeting

III Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by Sarah; seconded by Gretchen. Approved.

IV Reports

A. Vicariate Meeting – Sarah

1. Sarah discussed her presentation of the materials for Cover the Uninsured Week

Packet entered into the minutes here

- Memo dated 03/14/07
- General information and fact sheets
- Proclamation template for example
- Copy of calendar of events

2. New handout - Background on SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Plan)

3. Information well received by all. Agreed to requested endorsement as appropriate ("This information is provided by the Blue Water Vicariate of the Archdiocese of Detroit" "This activity is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit.")

4. Agreed that we can work through the Christian Service reps of each parish

5. Letter to Christian service reps with copy to president of parish council

(Barbara will email all with information; they will be asked to share with their parish council and pastor)

B. Vicariate Christian Service Meeting

1. Barbara reported that she introduced herself to the Christian Service Reps at the Vicariate Parish meeting on March 14. Discussed general activities of the Social Justice committee, specifically, "Cover the Uninsured Week" event. Some stated that they had seen the information; most had not. Two other parishes have social justice committees – St. Mary St. Clair and St. Mary Queen of Creation. Vicariate Christian service rep is Mary Paquette from St. Mary St. Clair. All were enthusiastic and agreed to receive information from the Social Justice Committee via email, starting with the "Cover the Uninsured Week" material and continuing on a regular basis. The Social Justice Committee of the Our Lady on the River Parish of Holy Cross, St. Catherine and St. Mark is doing fundraising for The Peoples' Clinic. Information on this activity will also be provided to the members of the vicariate as an example of what can be done during this week.

2. Minutes of the Blue Water Vicariate Pastoral Council Meeting February 7, 2007, given to recording secretary by Sharon Bender and here entered into these minutes. Sharon reviewed some of the activities of the Christian Service committee: Jail Ministry, Pax Christi

(Note for the record: Sarah is our rep to the Vicariate; Barbara is our rep to the Christian Service directors)

C. Immigration and Border Security

1. Sister Barbara highly recommends that the committee take up this issue now, because of pending legislation, even though we had decided to delay this until next year. Agreed.
2. Gretchen passed out article, "Richer Mexico will help stop tide of illegals" by Victor Davis Hanson; Barbara asked for source, stating that she was not comfortable providing information without a source (validity of article would be in question). Gretchen agreed to look for the source. Also passed out article "Good Neighbor: Why Felipe Calderon would be Washington's best friend in Latin America" by Tim Padgett, Time Magazine. March 19, 2007.
3. Sister discussed
 - a. Summary letter from America Magazine by J. Kevin Appleby "Toward Immigration Reform" which discusses their pastoral letter, Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope (2003) (here included)
 - b. Op piece from NY Times "They are America" (here included)
 - c. Op piece from February 21 NY Times "Tougher Tactics deter migrants at US border" (get copy for records)
 - d. "Justice for immigrants" handout from Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati - Office of Peace and Justice (here included). Sister would like us to publish the "Justice for immigrants" handout in parish bulletins
4. General discussion followed on:
proposals that are coming up for vote; guest worker program; one problem is over extended visas; Gretchen recommends that the US work with the government of Mexico
5. Action:
 - a. Sister Barbara – to write a paragraph of introduction to the "Justice for immigrants" handout, which Barbara will email to Christian service reps with request to put in parish bulletin – recommendation to print a different issue each week
 - b. Gretchen will find out what the proposals are in front of congress

D. Darfur - Barbara

Barbara prepared handout for the next Vicariate Pastoral Council meeting April 18 (given to Sarah):

Campaign to Stop Genocide in Darfur

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Get information – take action – help others to take action

Primary source: Africa Action Website, www.africaaction.org

Background information – links for more information –

SPRINT FOR DARFUR campaign

Top 10 ways to take action to stop genocide in Darfur

There is a great deal of information on the website. Of particular note are:

1. Africa Action Talking Points on How to Stop Genocide in Darfur, Sudan
2. Six Months Since 1706: The International Failure to Protect Darfur

(note: all materials here included.)

E. Miscellaneous:

1. Explanation: NGO Non governmental organization
2. Sharon recommended that Sister write a regular "Social Justice Column" for the vicariate
3. CRS Fair Trade information from Sarah
3. Note from recording secretary: Barbara to follow up on renting two tables for Holiday Expo at Holy

Cross, November 11, 2007

IV Announcements None

V New Business None

VI Next Meeting April 19, 2007, 3 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe
Meeting adjourned 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Susan
Recording Secretary