

Meeting of the Social Justice/Multicultural Committee of the Blue Water Vicariate  
Thursday, October 19, 2006 3:00 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission

Present: Sister Mary Barbara Philippart, Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Gretchen Forrester, Holy Cross Parish, Barbara Susan, Holy Cross Parish, Hank and Sarah Rutkowski, St. Edward, Mercedes Fox, Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission

Not Present: Mary Suarez

#### HANDOUTS:

Agenda and handouts from Sister Barbara

Agenda for the 10/19/06 meeting

Informal minutes of 09/06/06 meeting

Materials handed out at the October Vicariate meeting (Survey, Goals of the committee, Internet resources)

#### I Opening Prayer

Sister Barbara opened the meeting with prayer and asked Barbara to take minutes. Agreed.

#### II Introduction of new members

#### III Review our goal, methods and accept new input

##### A. General review of last meeting minutes

Sarah corrected spelling of her last name to Rutkowski. So noted.

B. Review of handouts (from last meeting). Sister asked Barbara to give an update on the internet resources list. Barbara reviewed some of her ideas, stating that she would put them on the website for the next meeting.

#### IV Reports

##### A. Sarah - Vicariate Meeting

Sarah attended the October 11 meeting. Primary areas of concern: Adult Formation, Children and Young Adults Education; Outreach to Teens, Social Justice Multicultural Area, and Stewardship. The participants then broke into smaller groups to focus on Outreach, Social justice, and Stewardship

The draft of the Resource Guide from the diocesan office that was distributed at the vicariate meeting was given to members. Discussion followed. Sister acknowledged that we couldn't read all of this information, and recommended that members of this committee take a particular area and read the recommended material and then prepare one page written summaries to share with the vicariate. Gretchen disagreed, stating that she would prefer action. Sister then proposed that we take a principle or idea from resource guide and write about an action that you would recommend from that principle. Tentative agreement reached. (Note: recommendation for action was not clear.)

Additional notes from that meeting:

a. Diocesan Social Justice Office contacts: Michael Hovey, Joyce Steele

b. "Major Themes of Catholic Social Teaching" was a primary document. Sister Barbara has requested for all members of the committee.

B. Barbara - list

Barbara restated that she would update the page and bring to the next meeting. The new information on the page focuses on the upcoming elections on November 7. She attended the Christian Service Coordinators' Association Meeting on October 18 and shared some of the voting materials received at that meeting which she will put on the web (Sister Barbara also had a lot of this material). Barbara discussed the organization MOSES. Sister said that Fr. Joe Gagnon is a resource person for this organization. Barbara also asked for recommendations to which Gretchen requested that Amnesty International be added to the Resources page.

Discussion continued on voting issues.

A review of Michigan Catholic Conference documents followed. We were advised that we could give information to the Parish Councils, stating that it came from the Social Justice office of the diocese. We then continued discussion of Focus documents. Barbara agreed to put all documents on the website, including the Voting Record Guide from NETWORK.

Sister will write a letter to all the Social Justice Committees in the parishes to get people out to vote

V. Decisions to be made

- A. What are the 3 or 4 issues for the year? No action
- B. Who will research each of the issues? No action (waiting for info from parishes)
- C. What information will we send to the parishes next month?

1. Current: Voting

Sister has asked Gretchen to write a letter to parishes. Gretchen and Sister wrote the letter. Barbara recommended that all of our names be on the letter.

2. Next month: Recommendation of alternate gift ideas for next meeting, e.g., The Heifer Project.

What kind of gift can we give to people of the world?

D. Meeting dates

a. Next meeting: Third Thursday of November, 11/16. 3:00 pm. Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission

b. Sarah gave Barbara Vicariate meeting dates to include in these minutes so that we could consider them when setting our meeting dates: 10/18, 11/08, 12/06, 01/17, 02/07, 03/14, 04/18, 05/09, 06/13

Informal discussion followed, including

- a. November 4 sale of Peruvian made sweaters and other articles at St. Mary's Church, Port Huron from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- b. name/address/email sheet passed around
- c. informal adjourn at 4:22 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Susan  
Recording Secretary