

## **St. Matthew Social Justice and Outreach Committee Meeting 9-17-20**

**Present:** Mo. Jetty, Bea, Tammy, Fr. Art, Tonya

### **Minutes: New Business**

1. Discuss how we're going to proceed with donations after our Senior drive ends this Sunday: Jetty suggested Halloween for WSWA families. Perhaps healthy treats? Popcorn, raisin packets, real fruit snacks, money for treat bags, etc. For Nov.: Thanksgiving food for WSWA.
2. Xela Aid update. Tammy said the woman in charge would like to do a speaking engagement to promote the cause. Tammy will set it up as per time available on calendar, perhaps in early-to-mid Oct. The speaker will speak between the 9:30 and 12:30 masses, live in church and live streamed.
3. Moving forward, we discussed: Who will be our PC contact/liaison for this committee? Who would like to be chair? Tonya will take over as parish-council liaison as Meredythe can no longer continue. Béa will continue to take minutes/write agenda and pass on to Tonya. Tonya will take it from there, communicating what we're doing with the parish council.
4. Update on old business (see minutes below from August). Tammy said she and Doris have been discussing what they can do as per prison ministry. Tammy said Doris has already been working with a prisoner and has contacts she will pass on to us.
5. Next meeting: Thursday, Oct. 15, 6:30 p.m. Tonya will send Zoom link.

## **St. Matthew Social Justice and Outreach Committee Meeting Minutes: 8-20-20**

**Present:** Mo. Jetty, Meredythe, Bea, Tammy, Fr. Art

1. Jetty would like to know how we can get more hands-on in our involvement with social justice in our community. She wants to continue to reach out to churches we can network with as well as post photos and information—such as a newsletter—from WSWA that we can add to our website. (Jetty asked that Béa specifically ask WSWA's permission to scan and upload their latest newsletter to our website. Answer follows.)  
ANSWER: As per Hannah from WSWA, publication sessions are each Thursday 1-5 pm to help with graphic design, article writing, etc. if people want to help from home they can give April from WSWA their contact info. Meetings are 10 or fewer people with masks mandatory. Hannah said no to publishing newsletter. They believe strongly in face-to-face communication. She would like, instead, to schedule a Zoom speaking engagement with the people of St. Matt's.

2. Bea discussed how we will handle the donations to the Senior Center and recommended we put together a gift for Dr. Ellie as well, who is completely homebound at this time. (Béa will handle outreach to Dr. Ellie.)
3. Fr. Art discussed other ways to get more deeply involved, such as doing hands-on food delivery.
4. One suggestion is that we advertise for members of St. Matt's to join the food distribution/delivery effort at WSWA. Béa reached out and here is the answer:

Yes, WSWA still needs people with cars to distribute. This typically happens Fridays at around 10:30 a.m. when they need someone to pick up fresh food and take it to a refrigeration space. They need a volunteer Sunday mornings to pick up the perishable food (no later than 10:30 or 11) and other volunteers to deliver food to hungry folks in the community Sundays 12-3 pm. Around this same time they need emergency non-perishable food also distributed. Even if people can volunteer once in a while, not necessarily every Sunday, that is helpful. Distribution is done in a no-contact manner. Bea will write it up and Meredythe will take it to Susan. (That is, Bea will write it up and cc to all, including Susan.)
5. Meredythe is working on t-shirt plans. Fr. Art suggested we wear them when working in the community in order to identify us. We will include this in Parish Announcements.
6. We had a meeting glitch. Bea will schedule the next meeting, Zoom everyone in, and we will keep it to under 45 minutes. We will have to plan to start exactly at 6:30 p.m. and wrap by 7:15. A suggestion was made that we reach out to Doris Hand to see if she's still doing prison ministry. Béa will contact Doris. (NOTE: Béa did this. Doris sent me to another org. See email, attached.\*) Tammy will reach out to see if/when Xela Aid is resuming it's work.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, Sept. 17, 6:30 p.m. Béa will send the Zoom link when we get closer to the meeting date.

\* So nice to hear from you.

Yes, currently we are only operating in WA. But our goal is to have our OPOP models fully available for church networks and prison ministries to start using all over the country within the next few years. Please stay tuned. You can sign up for our newsletter to stay connected at [undergroundministries.org/donate](http://undergroundministries.org/donate)

To do the kind of reentry work we do, it's important to work with a state PRISON, not a local jail. Jail is local, but inmates are either releasing too soon to build a reentry plan, or they are going to be sentenced and shipped off to a prison. Once in prison, that's where we recruit inmates interested in a release community in their hometown who might want to do One Parish One Prisoner with them.

For now, I would share our video with your congregation, and pray about it, and start asking if people ALREADY known someone in the prison system who might be releasing in the next couple years. Then look more at our OPOP model: [undergroundministries.org/opop](http://undergroundministries.org/opop)

Let me know how this goes,

**Chris Hoke**

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