

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CLUSTER  
SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 2, 2018 – 7:15 PM  
FAYETTE, IOWA

Attendees: Andy Johnson (SP); Lois McElvania (HN); Elaine Reicks (SFA); Ann Egan (IC); Maureen Johnson (SP – Cluster Business Manager); Deacon Michal Schemmel (IC – Cluster Deacon)

Ann opened the meeting with prayer.

Meeting was lead by Lois McElvania as Chair.

**II. Review & Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Elaine, Andy seconded – motion carried.

**III. Review & Approval of Minutes of August Meeting:** Motion by Ann, Elaine seconded – motion carried.

**IV. Guest Speaker: Karen Martin, Fayette County Food Shelf**

Karen has been managing the Fayette County Food Shelf for 16 years. The F.C.F.S. has been in existence for 30 years starting in the Fall of 1988 originally in Randalia. F.C.F.S. receives no government money. It is funded exclusively through grants, donations and income from the thrift store. Karen is a master at “couponing” which helps to stretch every dollar received. In addition, they accept donations of empty ink and toner cartridges which they can redeem for cash. F.C.F.S. will also take donations of your excess garden produce.

F.C.F.S. is an emergency food shelf, which means a person can get a large amount of food once every 3 months. At the same time, they can choose \$10 worth of clothing for every person in their family. If someone is seeking help after a fire, there are no limits to clothing and food. If a person is on food stamps, Karen can work with DHS to enhance what she can distribute to them. The Food Shelf operates on a voucher system, meaning people need a voucher issued by a church or social services agency in order to receive a food distribution.

F.C.F.S. also makes and distributes “angel gowns” for infants lost to miscarriages, etc. and makes blankets from old jeans to distribute to the homeless.

When asked what current needs of the Food Shelf are, Karen discussed their building project going on now to give them more space.

**V. Old Business:**

**10 Step Process:** Maureen composed a possible Mission Statement and Vision Statement for this committee. In the interest of time, this will be discussed at the December meeting.

**School Supply Collections:** It was felt the response was good.

**V. New Business:**

**Catholic Social Teachings in Bulletin:** Lois to identify first items to put in a bulletin announcement for the next bulletin.

**Christmas Giving Trees:** At this time the committee is not established enough to take over coordination of this traditional parish activity. Therefore, each parish should continue whatever practices they traditionally have done for Christmas giving.

**Medical Devices Collection:** Tabled to a future meeting

**Funding:** Discussion continued on how social justice efforts in the Cluster should be funded. Some ideas included waiting until a project is identified to discuss; regular Sunday collections that are scheduled ahead of time; requesting a possible line item in next year’s Cluster budget. More discussion to follow.

**Food Shelf Weekend:** Discussed plans for a Food Shelf Weekend throughout the Cluster. Ideas include requesting everyone to bring a food item and/or cash donation to be brought to the altar at the Offertory.

**VI. Adjournment and Closing Prayer:**

Deacon Mike lead a closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 7:15 p.m. @ St. Francis of Assisi, Fayette

Respectfully submitted:

Maureen Johnson

Acting Secretary/Cluster Business Manager