

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL J. & P. GROUP MINUTES 14 07 2011

Present

Teresa Lyth; Ted Cox; Len Collings; Margaret Stacey; Slawomir Ziemian

Apologies

Fran Howling; Carol Rowntree; Elizabeth Collings; Paul Bowen; Bernard McCaffrey; John Walton; Laurie Haley; Ann Smith

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer

Teresa led in the absence of Len.

2. Apologies

As above.

3. Matters Arising and Action Points from last meeting

No issues raised regarding the Action Sheet.

4. Financial report

Ted gave an update on the state of finances.

June donations: £246.47

Total in account: £578.92

5. CAFOD East Africa crises appeal

A discussion on how to support the appeal took place. Three main ideas suggested were as follows:

1. It was understood that another second collection may be requested after correspondence from Laurie. However, the general feeling amongst the group members was that we would like to consider doing more
2. Consideration was given to preparing a cake stall and discussing this with the Children's Liturgy Group. However, due to imminent school holidays break this may be impossible to organise.
3. Other ideas were suggested and considered.

We have a second collection with CAFOD on the weekend of 30/31 July which is the 18th Sunday of the year.

6. Monthly collection of items for refugees and asylum seekers. Date, Newsletter entry, Poster etc.

Ann informed us of the outcome of The Refugee Week Collection. The response was very positive and generated 2 trailers full of furniture and over 2 large cars full of household goods/furniture/clothes, together with one large car full of foodstuff. She had to make 4 trips and Linda from the refugee service used her trailer twice to deliver items to the Refugee centre at the Methodist church hall in Linthorpe. She had quite a few phone calls from folk enquiring about giving items so the donations left at church were very much supplemented. Both organisations were very grateful and parishioners' efforts very much appreciated.

Ann- A message of thanks and feedback is planned for the bulletin.

It had been previously proposed that there might be a monthly collection on the last Sunday of each month in the future.

Teresa to discuss the following with Ann:

- Her thoughts on frequency and dates of future collections. This will need confirming with Canon Gerard and co-ordination with the Parish Diary.
- An entry for the cathedral Newsletter will need to be prepared a week before each collection. Also another poster to display
- Provision of boxes. It was suggested that we could provide re-usable large plastic boxes appropriately labelled for convenience and to continue to use large plastic bags with these.

Open Door North East-Harvest Festival Appeal

We have received a Harvest Festival Appeal for a food collection for the destitute from Open Door Northeast. Open Door is a local Teesside Charity that feeds and houses destitute asylum seekers, Men women and teenagers who have no support and no right to work or right to access statutory services. The appeal was considered, discussion took place and there was support for this but concern was raised that the purpose of the group was not only to support charities and causes brought to us, but also to increase our knowledge and understanding of Catholic Social Teaching. We must address both aspects.

As the collection of items is similar to that of our present collection for refugees (tinned items, dried items, basic foods and cleaning and toiletries), we decided we would send appropriate items from the September/October collection to support Open Door Northeast. We need to ensure that the date of this collection does not clash with the children's harvest festival collection. Teresa will check the church diary. Teresa has since spoken to Ann who is aware of this group and is in agreement with this. There will need to be appropriate modification of newsletter entry/poster for that month.

7. Prisoners of Conscience Week in October- Letters

Margaret is organizing an evening of letter/ card writing to Prisoners of Conscience in October/November. It was suggested that this could be after one of the evening Masses in the Cathedral Hall. The event should include coffee/tea, biscuits/sandwiches and be advertised in the bulletin in September. Margaret is currently checking the most appropriate agency to do

this with and there will be more information on this through the summer. Inviting a speaker from Amnesty International was considered but not really appropriate or feasible at present.

During the discussion an idea of having J&P kitty has been mentioned – this idea has previously been raised by John. The money is required to cover the cost of stationary, travel expenses for future invited guests and other necessities.

Also discussed that Christmas Cards and messages need to be written at some point to the women and families in Musha Rwanda.

Margaret ongoing action as above.

Slawomir will send a separate email to J&P members asking for ideas of how to get the money for the kitty.

Laurie/Teresa –ongoing communication with Musha Rwanda

8. Diocesan Justice and Peace Newsletter

This was deferred to the next full meeting in September.

9. Website Entries

Slawomir informed that an entry has been sent to Joseph and is awaiting implementation.

10. Future meeting - date for Len's talk

We are pleased to have a date for Len's talk on Catholic Social Teaching which will take place on 07th September 2011 at 7:30 pm after Benediction which is at 6:30 pm. It was suggested we have tea/coffee and biscuits from 7:00 pm. We look forward to this talk and thank Len for his support of the group.

Len will arrange for the talk to be advertisement in the Catholic Voice.

11.AOB.

No items discussed.

Closing Prayer

Len led the group in the closing prayer.

Slawomir Ziemian