

**Saint Thomas Aquinas Social Justice Committee  
Minutes, July 13, 2021, 7:00 pm**

**Present: Chris Rehmann (Chair) Chuck Glatz, Francis Todey, Mary Ann Todey, Kathy Trahanovsky, Dave Dirks, Paula Friederich**

**Prayer:** Chris

**Lord, give Your people Your peace that we may shine brightly in a dark world. Grant us the courage to live faithfully even in the midst of hard times. Let our fear of You be the beginning of wisdom rather than allowing the fear of the world to drive our actions. Help us to embrace our heavenly citizenship and live in the midst of a world that needs to know You.**

**Show Your mercy and heal those who are suffering in Your fallen creation. Most of all Lord, come. Restore the world You made and make all things new. We pray that Your will would be done. Amen.**

**Minutes of June meeting:** Approved

**COVID-19 / LYN Funds:** Chuck, Kathy, Dave

To date, \$343,779 has been donated and \$313,892 has been distributed. The current balance is \$29,887. There have been 119 families helped by this fund thus far. There has been some discussion about possibly reducing the maximum benefit from \$550 to \$450 per month due to decreased donations.

Also, there is some effort among community agencies to centralize the application and distribution of available and various types of funds within the county. Tom had previously said that he didn't think STA would be likely to join a centralized fund if it meant that STA would lose its discretion to make decisions regarding the LYN and/or other funding programs. Kathy and Dave said that LYN has recently had fewer applications. It is unknown why. Kathy will talk to Nancy H. at STC before she meets with the county and gathers more information.

**Social Justice Grants:**

Funds have been all or mostly distributed.  
Bobby has asked SJC to submit a description of the program.

**AMOS**

Community ID Drive will hold another Drive on Saturday, July 17, 2021 at 9am in the lower level of the parking deck of St. Thomas Aquinas. Covid-19 vaccinations will also be available at no charge.

**Summary of Responsibilities of the Coordinator of Ministries (pertaining to SJC.)**

Chris led a discussion and asked for input regarding how the staff liaison to SJC has assisted the SJC in the past. Chris will summarize these duties for Fr. Kyle.

**Season of Creation Celebration:**

Chuck reports that the Celebration will take place October 3, 2021 at St. Cecilia. There are multiple congregations involved in the planning this year.

**Solar Farm:**

Dave is working with the Finance Council to get approval for a fundraiser at STA. If approved \$50,000 will be requested for STA to invest in the Ames Solar Farm. It is anticipated that this will offset 15% -20% of STA's energy use.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 11@ 6:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by Paula Friederich