

**Saint Thomas Aquinas Social Justice Committee  
Minutes: August 11, 2021 (via ZOOM)**

**Present: Chris Rehmann, Chuck Glatz, Mary Ellen Wishart, Kathy Trahanovsky, Francis Todey, Marianne Todey, Paula Friederich**

**Guest: Bob Bourne**

**Prayer: Chris**

Excerpt from Pope Francis' Laudato Si' Action Plan Intro video:

<https://www.laudatosi.org/laudato-si/action-platform/>

**Minutes of July 13:** Approved with a few minor corrections. Chuck will correct the errors before posting on the website.

**COVID-19 Fund: Chuck, Kathy**

To date, \$353,414 has been donated with \$328,872 having been distributed. Current balance is \$24,542. The steering committee for this fund is anticipating reducing the maximum benefit from \$500 to \$400 because of declining donations. It is also considering when to phase-out this fund.

**Centralized Community Intake: Kathy**

Story County Human Services has now established a central intake system to handle applications for their funds as well as those of participating nonprofits providing rent and utility payments. Discussions are proceeding as to how best the intake forms for assistance funds from various community/county resources may be centralized. Kathy will try to meet with Good Neighbor to gather their input on this and evaluate how Good Neighbor might interact.

**Season of Creation Celebration, October 3: Chuck, Mary Ellen**

There has been good interest and support in participating in this service. So far 4 congregations are involved. As hoped, it will be an ecumenical service this year. The Archbishop has expressed his support for this effort.

Chuck is gathering information about what other parishes are doing to conform with Laudato Si'.

Marianne and Mary Ellen suggested that this encyclical may be a good topic for STA small groups and/or Sunday Seminars.

**Solar Farm: Bob**

Bob will talk to Dave about presenting to the finance council. The proposal is that since the church is reporting a surplus, we seek permission to appeal to the parish for donations, and that the parish match those funds up to \$28,000. Dave has previously stated that he is aware of parishioners who have already expressed interest in this project with offers of donations totaling \$15,000, even though an appeal has not yet been made. Discussions are progressing.

**Next Meeting: September 14 @ 6:00pm. (tentative)**

Respectfully submitted by Paula Friederich  
Approved at SJC Meeting 9/21/21