**Social Outreach Committee Minutes**

**Prayer Room, Tuesday, August 5, 2025**

Attendees: Colleen McKenna, Maggie McIntyre, Jane Berkley, Jeanette Nappier

* Opening prayer
* Christmas in July: Julie
  + Program successfully completed including final bulletin announcements and Belltower Beacon article
  + Feedback
    - well organized and easy to run; no need to update task list
    - Centers for H.O.P.E. Campus could not speak at our mass due to conflicts with outdoor mass and other speakers
* Creation Care: Jeanette
  + Tree Blessing was conducted around the new dogwood tree
  + Equal Exchange sale for Balay sa Kabus on Oct 4-5 (Feast of St. Francis)
  + Litter Pilgrimage? **need feedback from Sharon and Kate**
* Name Change: Jeanette and Colleen
  + Webpage and email address will be updated
  + Bulletin announcement will be written for September bulletin
    - Describing name change
    - Asking for volunteers for specific small tasks, such as delivering Thanksgiving food, sorting Christmas gifts, selling Equal Exchange products; **need help from team leaders to identify more tasks**
* DSAO Poverty Simulation at St. Ladislas: Jeanette
  + DSAO will pay for program and St. Ladislas will host on early Nov. Sat.
  + Limited to adults, future sessions may be suitable for The Way
  + St. Chris and at least 3 other parishes will support with publicity
* Upcoming Programs
  + Halloween Candy: Kathy
  + Thanksgiving Food: Maggie, Mary
  + Christmas GIFT Program: Mary Ann, Jane
    - Team meeting held during summer to work on details
* Advocacy: Jeanette
  + USCCB reaction to passage of One Beautiful Bill shared; full text follows minutes
    - Calls for redoubled efforts to help those now in greater need
    - Asks for legislative advocacy for better future possibilities for those in need
* Next meeting: Tuesday, September 2, 12pm Prayer Room

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Nappier August 9, 2025

**US Bishops React to Passage of One Beautiful Bill**

WASHINGTON – Reacting to the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act by the U.S. Congress, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, lamented the great harm the bill will cause to many of the most vulnerable in society, making steeper cuts to Medicaid and clean energy tax credits, and adding more to the deficit. While the bishops had commended the positive aspects of an earlier version of the bill, the restriction on federal funds to abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood was reduced to one year, the parental choice in education provision was greatly weakened, and the restriction on federally funding “gender transition” procedures was removed.

Archbishop Broglio said:

“My brother bishops and I have repeatedly and consistently urged lawmakers to use the budget reconciliation process to help families in need and to change course on aspects of the bill that fail the poor and vulnerable. The final version of the bill includes unconscionable cuts to healthcare and food assistance, tax cuts that increase inequality, immigration provisions that harm families and children, and cuts to programs that protect God’s creation. The bill, as passed, will cause the greatest harm to those who are especially vulnerable in our society. As its provisions go into effect, people will lose access to healthcare and struggle to buy groceries, family members will be separated, and vulnerable communities will be less prepared to cope with environmental impacts of pollution and extreme weather. More must be done to prevent these devastating effects.

**The Catholic Church’s teaching to uphold human dignity and the common good compels us to redouble our efforts and offer concrete help to those who will be in greater need and continue to advocate for legislative efforts that will provide better possibilities in the future for those in need.”**

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